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Gas attack blamed as dozens die in Syria

Trump tweet threatens
'big price' for atrocity

By LOUISA LOVELUCK
AND ERIN CUNNINGHAM
The Washington Post

BEIRUT — Syrian doctors and rescue workers said Sunday that dozens of people had died in an apparent chemical attack on a besieged enclave near Damascus as government forces escalated their offensive to recapture one of the last rebel strongholds near the capital.

At least 40 people were killed Saturday evening in the gas attack in Douma in eastern Ghouta, about 12 miles from Damascus, according to the Syrian-American Medical Society, a Washington-based nonprofit group that supports health facilities in the area.

More than 500 people "were brought to local medical centers with symptoms indicative of exposure to a chemical agent," SAMS said in a joint statement with the opposition-linked Syria Civil Defense, a group of first responders. The patients showed signs of respiratory distress, with many foaming at the mouth and emitting a "chlorine-like odor," they said.

President Donald Trump responded to the attack Sunday morning on Twitter.

"Many dead, including women and children, in mindless CHEMICAL attack in Syria," he said. "Area of atrocity is in lockdown and encircled by Syrian Army, making it completely inaccessible to outside world. President Putin, Russia and Iran are responsible for backing Animal Assad. Big price..."

Regarding a possible U.S. response, White House homeland security and counterterrorism

·
vic·to·ry
/vikt(ə)rē/
noun

For Trump and his
generals, the word has
different meanings.

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JACOB CONNOR
COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY

SEE DOZENS ON PAGE 4

EUROPE

Ex-officer faced trouble at work before fatal day

By NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Something seemed wrong with Bradley Kinser.

The former U.S. Army Africa major was acting paranoid, and he was irritable and combative at his job on Caserma Ederle assisting other soldiers returning to civilian life, a reliable source said.

On his last day at work at the Soldier for Life — Transition Assistance office late last week, he fell asleep at his desk and was so disoriented that a concerned co-worker drove him home, a source said.

Leila Kinser, his Russian-born wife of 15 years, had just returned to their home near Vicenza after spending a month without Kinser at a friend's condominium in Miami. On March 18, she'd posted a smiling photo of herself sunbathing. "I'm alive-of-health-," she wrote on Facebook.

By Monday, both would be dead.

The couple's 5-year-old pet turtle, which they carried with them everywhere and photographed often, was missing.

Italian authorities investigating the deaths say it appeared that Kinser had suffocated his wife in her bed. He'd then cut himself, written "Sorry" in blood along with the shape of a heart and "U" on a Post-it note and attached it to the bedroom door. Then he cut his throat in the couple's bathroom,

authorities said.

Leila's friends, Russian women who had also married U.S. servicemen, were concerned when she called them Friday at their homes in the United States to share upsetting news. She told them that her husband said he was in trouble at work for stealing money. "He said he'd rather kill himself than go to jail," said Yulia Michenia, one of those friends.

Kinser's employers, Inverness Technologies Inc. based at Fort Knox, Ky., which contracts with the Army to provide the transition service, declined to discuss his performance or whether he had been accused of stealing.

His wife's friends said she'd told them that her husband had started acting strangely in November but that she didn't know what was wrong.

"Leila didn't know about it until he told her he was in trouble on Friday," said Olessia Maximenko.

Maximenko said her friend told her she'd found a knife under Kinser's pillow. She said he'd threatened to kill her, too.

"She locked herself in her bedroom," Maximenko said. "I tell her to put a knife under her pillow. She said, 'Don't worry, I got it under control.'"

The next day, Kinser, 39, went on the phone when she told her friends that after an argument her husband had taken the turtle, Mashka, and put it in a pond be-

hind a local restaurant called the Old Wild West.

Kinser, 43, apparently changed his mind after putting the turtle in the pond and waded in trying to retrieve it. "It was Saturday afternoon," a restaurant employee who gave her name as Michela, said. "They tell me he searched. But we have too many tartarughe (turtles) in the lake."

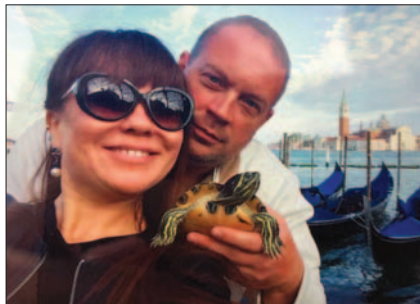
The last post on Leila's Facebook page, just before 9 p.m. Saturday, said, "I don't have any more my Mashka I want to die."

Her friends said they last heard from her late on March 31 or early on April 1.

"If we had called the police right after she stopped talking to us maybe it could have been prevented," Maximenko said. "But we didn't know who to call or how to reach them."

Italian authorities broke into the Kinser home on April 2, after Kinser had failed to show up for a mental health evaluation he'd agreed to go to accompanied by chaplain Lt. Col. David Schnarr. Schnarr could not be reached for comment. But Italian media said that he told investigators he'd been counselling Kinser and that the former Army major said he was depressed and considering suicide. According to the Italian media, Schnarr told Kinser that he should focus on the happy relationship he had with his wife.

The couple met in South Korea, Maximenko said. Leila, along



Leila and Bradley Kinser posed with their turtle in a 2016 Facebook photo taken in Venice.

with thousands of Russian women who entered South Korea in 2000, worked as a bartender and cocktail waitress.

"That's how I met my first husband, too, and so did all my girlfriends," Maximenko said.

"There was no life in Russia," Kinser, she said, who was from Fayetteville, N.C., fell in love with Leila "immediately."

He seemed devoted to her, friends said, and supported her love for travel, dining and Louis Vuitton.

The pair traveled to Abu Dhabi, Vietnam, Moscow, the south of France and more, recorded with photos on Facebook. After a trip to London in July, Kinser wrote on Facebook, "Leila spends hours looking for things for us to do... I am soo lucky to have my wife."

The couple, who did not have children, lived in a variety of places where Kinser was assigned, including Germany and the United States, Facebook posts show and their friends said.

In 2009, Kinser, then a captain and commander of Headquarters

and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, was quoted in a Central Command news release commending Iraqi forces.

By 2013, Kinser had been promoted to major and was a strategic intelligence research officer for U.S. Army Africa in Vicenza.

Two years later, a drawdown forced him out of the Army, sources said.

It's not clear when he took the transition assistance job.

Italian authorities were to perform an autopsy Friday on Leila Kinser's body. Her mother was soon to arrive to retrieve her daughter's body and return to Russia for burial, Maximenko said.

Arrangements for Bradley Kinser's remains were unclear.

"We're all very sad about this," said Lt. Col. Armando Hernandez, a U.S. Army Africa spokesman. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family."

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PACIFIC

Military urges more to take COLA surveys

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A cost-of-living survey that's about to do the rounds of U.S. bases in Japan could affect allowances that were slashed for servicemembers there earlier this year.

The living pattern survey, which is conducted every three years, asks servicemembers how and where they buy goods and services and helps set COLA rates that compensate personnel for higher prices overseas.

Personnel in Yokosuka and Yokohama will have from April 15 to May 31 to complete the survey. All other military bases in Japan will hold theirs May 1-31.

In 2018, all but two U.S. bases in Japan — Naval Air Facility Atsugi and Camp Fuji — experienced COLA reductions. The largest drops came at Yokosuka, where servicemembers saw rates drop about 45 percent, and at Yokota Air Base, where they fell by about 30 percent.

To get the most accurate information to determine allowances for the next three years it's important that as many people as possible fill out the surveys, Yokosuka spokesman Sean Kelly said.

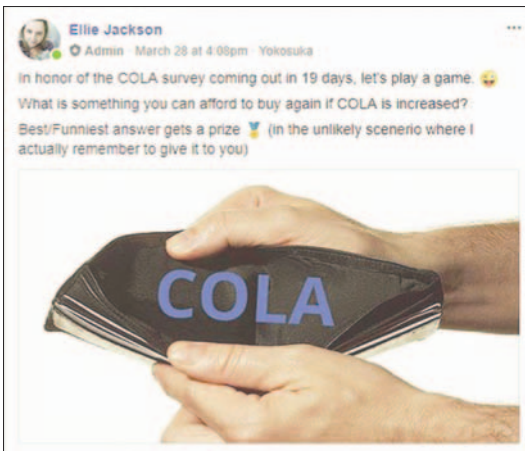
"If you only have a small fraction of the eligible servicemembers filling out the survey, the data may not be as accurate as it needs to be," he said.

Young troops are less likely to participate than older troops, even though they make up two-thirds of the military population, according to a 2015 Rand Corp. study.

In Air Force survey results that Rand studied, the response rate of 18- to 24-year-olds was about 9 percent, while 25- to 34-year-olds was 17 percent. About 25 percent of 35- to 44-year-olds and 29 percent of active-duty airmen ages 45 and older completed the surveys.

At a Yokosuka town hall event in February, base commander Capt. Jeffrey Kim encouraged families to do the surveys together.

"All our active duty service members — or spouses, though only one survey will be accepted per active duty DoD ID number — are most strongly encouraged to com-



Screenshot from Facebook

Yokosuka Navy spouse Ellie Jackson creates social media posts to encourage military spouses to help servicemembers complete upcoming cost-of-living allowance surveys.

plete this survey to provide the best pool of data to the Defense Travel Management Office, which administers the Overseas COLA entitlement," Kim told Stars and Stripes Friday in an email.

The Navy is promoting the survey to Yokosuka spouses — not just servicemembers, who are the only ones technically eligible to take it, Kelly said.

"Many of the spouses probably never took the survey [in years past] because it was incumbent on sailors," he said. "We are looking at how can we push this so the spouses who may be doing most of the shopping know when [the survey] starts, when it ends and how to take it."

This year the Navy is making a concerted

effort to get the word out with more social media posts and emails, Kelly said.

"If you have eyes, you will probably see this somewhere," he said. "There is always going to be somebody who is going to miss it, but we are doing our best to minimize those somebodyes."

Some residents at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni were frustrated when they heard about a recent 14 percent COLA drop.

Rocky Rozhansky, a former sailor whose husband is attached to Strike Fighter Squadron 27 at Iwakuni, said her family spends about \$335 on road tolls each year to shop at Costco in Hiroshima once a week.

"It's very disappointing to hear [about the COLA reduction] considering how expensive the food is at the commissary on base," Rozhansky said. "There are families here with hungry mouths to feed, and this adds to servicemembers' decline in morale. Adding stress to an already overstressed forward-deployed force is detrimental to the Navy as a whole."

At Yokosuka, Navy spouse Ellie Jackson posted information about the survey on the 5,500-member "Yokosuka Military Spouses" Facebook group, which she helps manage.

"We moved from Miami where the cost of living was pretty high, but Japan is considerably higher," she said. "We rely on COLA to make up the difference."

There's a perception that COLA was cut at Yokosuka because of the low number of responses to the last survey, Jackson said. "Many have said they did not take the survey because it was not advertised well, and they did not know when or how to participate," she said.

Humor seems to be the best way to spread the word, said Jackson, who offered a prize last week for the funniest answer to: "What is something you can afford to buy again if COLA is increased?"

Answers ranged from "produce" to "ear plugs so I can tune out all the complaining about COLA."

Jackson said her top post about the survey reached thousands of people.

"If I can use humor to engage with 3,000-plus people about the COLA survey, I feel like it's my responsibility to do so," she said.

Still, Kelly said it's important to remember that the allowance may not increase no matter how many people take the survey. COLA rates can change based on whether prices are climbing or falling in the U.S. versus overseas locations.

"There is no guarantee that it will go up. If prices in the states have gone up, it's potential that ours won't go up either," Kelly said. "But the more data you have, the more accurate the COLA information can be."

Stars and Stripes reporter James Bolinger contributed to this report.
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Group pushes Navy to remove Bible from Okinawa POW/MIA display

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A nonprofit group dedicated to safeguarding servicemembers' constitutional right to religious freedom has lodged a formal complaint with the Navy after a Bible was spotted in a POW/MIA "Missing Man" table display at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

The complaint was filed Thursday by the New York-based Law Office of Donald Rehkopf Jr. on behalf of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation and 26 families on Okinawa.

The complaint — addressed to Navy Medicine West commander Rear Adm. Paul Pearigen — demands the immediate removal of the Bible from the hospital galley display, the immediate removal of accompanying written materials that describe the United States as being "founded as one nation

under God," a Japanese translation of those materials and an independent investigation into who put up the display, as well as "appropriate disciplinary measures" for those responsible.

The complaints include sailors, Marines and Department of Defense civilian employees stationed on the island, MRFF founder and president Mikey Weinstein said Friday.

"Why is that Bible there?" Weinstein said. "Can you imagine if somebody put a Quran there, or the book of Satan, or the Book of Mormon? It violates the [First Amendment's] Establishment Clause" as well as DOD and Navy regulations."

MRFF officials expect the Navy to comply with the request. If it does not, they plan to file a third-party inspector general complaint and potentially a lawsuit if the issue remains unresolved

after exhausting all "administrative remedies."

A U.S. Naval Forces Japan spokeswoman referred comment requests to a U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa spokesman, who did not respond to messages Friday.

After learning about the display, Weinstein, a former Air Force judge advocate general and Reagan administration lawyer, contacted hospital officials last week and asked them to remove the religious items from the display. He said a Navy JAG assigned to the hospital refused to do so without permission from the hospital commander, Capt. Cynthia Kuehner, who is away on temporary duty assignment.

The fight to remove religious articles from POW/MIA "Missing Man" tables is not new for MRFF. The group has been successful in several other cases, the latest in November when it forced



Courtesy of MRFF

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation filed a complaint over a Bible in a POW/MIA display at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

the Denver VA Medical Center to remove religious items from a display.

MRFF has also successfully argued against religious proselytizing during official military

functions and forced the removal of religious historical and holiday displays from common areas on military posts.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Military weighs needs in Syria, Trump concerns

By MISSY RYAN

And PAUL SONNE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's mission against Islamic State in Syria remains open-ended despite President Donald Trump's promise of a quick U.S. withdrawal.

Military leaders are focusing on pushing the once-powerful group out of the small foothold it controls in eastern Syria and ensuring that it cannot plot attacks against the United States, a task defense officials have suggested will require a U.S. presence after the fighting stops.

What remains unclear is how the military will reconcile its vision with that of the president, whose distrust of foreign wars and desire to demonstrate a swift victory were evident in the past week as he vowed that U.S. troops would depart Syria "very soon."

Public and private comments reveal a gap regarding America's future role in Syria. Military leaders, mindful of the fleeting nature of earlier military gains in Iraq and Afghanistan, have spoken repeatedly of the need for a robust post-conflict agenda.

Gen. Joseph Votel, the head of U.S. Central Command, predicted that the "hard part" lies ahead, as Syrian towns and cities now free of ISIS seek to rebuild and ensure that militants cannot return. "Of course there is a military role in this," he said.

While commanders warn against leaving before the territory is stable enough to prevent an insurgent revival, the president wants other countries to stabilize

the area. Meeting with senior national security aides the same day, the president sought to limit U.S. involvement in stabilization activities, but did not press for an immediate withdrawal.

Military officials are trying to address Trump's concerns even as they race ahead with their plans for what many have described as "finishing the job."

"The president has actually been very good in not giving us a specific timeline, so that's a tool that we can use to our effect as we move forward," Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, director of the Joint Staff, told reporters last week.

In an indication of an evolving Pentagon approach, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis suggested on Friday that the United States had not decided whether it would continue supporting its main partner in northern Syria after withdrawing troops.

For now, military leaders are centering their efforts on the remaining military mission, which presents a sharp contrast to the one they faced in 2014, when militants controlled a vast swath across central and eastern Syria.

After more than four years of intensive airstrikes and U.S.-supported ground operations, only a tiny fraction of that militant domain remains. Estimates of how many ISIS fighters are in Syria and Iraq range from roughly 1,000 to 3,000, but the message from U.S. commanders is clear: A tactical victory is within reach.

Today, about 2,000 U.S. troops arrayed across northern and eastern Syria conduct a variety of missions. Chief among those is dealing with a small militant force



HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

A U.S. soldier, center, flattens the ground to set sand barrier bags at a newly installed position near the tense front line between the U.S.-backed Syrian Manbij Military Council and the Turkish-backed fighters, in Manbij, northern Syria, on Wednesday.

clung in along the Euphrates River near the city of Bukamal, on Syria's border with Iraq.

There, U.S. forces advise and support members of the Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, a Kurdish-dominated force that has been the main American military partner against the Islamic State.

After years of steady progress reclaiming militant-held territory, military leaders expressed frustration when the SDF diverted its efforts to defending the northwest city of Afrin from an onslaught by Turkish-backed Syrian forces.

Turkey has supported an aggressive campaign seeking to ensure that Syrian Kurds, whom it considers terrorists, cannot consolidate positions along its border.

While some ISIS fighters remain, the campaign against them ground to a near-halt after key SDF leaders departed for Afrin. "The military was within weeks of

accomplishing the military component of ISIS fight," said Jennifer Cafarella, who tracks events in Syria at the Institute for the Study of War.

In northern Syria, U.S. troops are expanding their activities around the city of Manbij, where the same Kurdish-Turkish tensions have the potential to erupt in greater violence and, U.S. officials fear, to allow ISIS to return.

In the city of Raqqa, which was the seat of ISIS power until last year, a small number of U.S. troops are supporting contractors ridding the city of improvised bombs and a civilian mission working to restore governance and basic services.

As they are in other areas across northern and eastern Syria, U.S. troops are also training a new local force to keep Raqqa secure.

U.S. troops are also supporting internal security forces in areas

along Syria's porous borders. Militants control another pocket of territory in the Euphrates River valley southeast of Deir al-Zour approaching the Iraqi border.

Late last month, Marine Corps Col. Seth Folsom described the ISIS groups remaining in Syria as "small, disorganized, fractured groups of ISIS fighters" that local forces are seeking to hunt down one by one.

Even if ISIS loses every inch of territory it still holds, American military commanders warn that the extremist group will transform into an insurgency.

In a recent report for the New America think tank, analysts David Sterman and Nate Rosenblatt warned that while the U.S. military has rolled back the Islamic State's physical caliphate, it has not addressed the root causes that gave rise to the mobilization of its fighters in the first place.

Dozens: Syria and Russia deny involvement in apparent chemical attack

FROM FRONT PAGE

adviser Thomas Bossert said, "I wouldn't take anything off the table."

"We're looking into the attack," he said in an interview on ABC's "This Week" set to air Sunday.

Syrian state media denied government involvement. Russia's Foreign Ministry also dismissed claims that Syrian troops were responsible. Russia is a key backer of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The allegations are "without basis" and are "designed to shield the terrorists ... who reject a political settlement," the Russian Foreign Ministry said. Earlier, the State Department singled out the Syrian and Rus-

sian governments, saying they "must be held accountable." Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert described the reports from eastern Douma as "disturbing" and "horrifying," saying they required an "immediate response by the international community."

Multiple reports, including from rescue workers and the State Department, said the initial attack targeted a hospital. The chemicals then spread to surrounding residential areas, they said. It was unclear what type of chemicals may have been used.

Syrian doctors and rescue workers on Sunday shared with journalists graphic images of men, women and children they said had been killed or wounded

in the attack.

"We tried to send people to the area to rescue the injured, but even the rescue workers began suffocating," said Mohamed Samer, a medical worker in Douma.

Some of the footage showed piles of bodies inside homes or slumped in concrete stairwells, foam visible on their noses and mouths. In other videos, civilians streamed into a chaotic field clinic where workers attempted to treat those affected, including an ashen-faced man who appeared to convulse.

Many of the images recalled earlier chemical weapons attacks on civilians in Syria, including those involving the nerve agent

sarin. A year ago, nearly 100 people were killed in a sarin attack in the northern town of Khan Sheikhoun that the United Nations has blamed on the Syrian air force. In 2013, also in eastern Ghouta, a sarin attack killed more than 1,000 people — an event that prompted then-President Barack Obama to threaten military action against the Syrian government.

SAMS and the Syria Civil Defense reported Sunday that at least one woman had convulsions and constricted pupils, which experts say indicate possible exposure to a nerve agent.

More than 1,700 people have been killed in eastern Ghouta, of which Douma is the largest city, since the Syrian army and allied

Russian forces began a punishing assault to rout rebels from the area in February.

A U.N. Security Council resolution failed to quell the fighting, and over the past month more than 130,000 Syrians have left eastern Ghouta as part of evacuation deals between rebels and government forces, the United Nations said.

As many as 150,000 people remain in Douma, where the humanitarian situation is "severe" and food commodities are "in short supply," according to the U.N. Organization for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Trump generals differ on view of 'victory'

By GREG JAFFE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's pronouncement that he would be pulling troops out of Syria "very soon" has laid bare a major source of tension between the president and his generals.

Trump has made winning on the battlefields of Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan a central tenet of his foreign policy and tough-guy identity. But Trump and the military hold frequently opposing ideas about exactly what winning means.

Those differences have played out in heated Situation Room debates over virtually every spot on the globe where U.S. troops are engaged in combat, said senior administration officials. And they contributed to the dismissal last month of Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster who as national security adviser had pressed the president against his instincts to support an open-ended commitment of U.S. forces to Afghanistan.

Trump's words, both in public and private, describe a view that wars should be brutal and swift, waged with overwhelming firepower and, in some cases, with little regard for civilian casualties. Victory over America's enemies for the president is often a matter of bombing "the s--- out of them," as he said on the campaign trail.

He returned to the theme last week. "We're knocking the hell" out of Islamic State, Trump said at a rally in Ohio last month. The boast was a predicate to the president insisting that U.S. troops would be "coming out of Syria real soon."

Limits of force

For America's generals, more than 17 years of combat have served as a lesson in the limits of overwhelming force to end wars fueled by sectarian feuds, unreliable allies and persistent government corruption. "Victory is sort [of] an elusive concept in that part of the world," said Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland, who led troops over five tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. "Anyone who goes in and tries to achieve a decisive victory is going to come away disappointed."

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis echoed that point in late November when he outlined an expanded role for U.S. forces in preventing the return of ISIS or a group like it in Syria. "You need to do something about this mess now," he told reporters. "Not just, you know, fight the military part of it and then say, 'Good luck on the rest of it.'"

His remarks reflected a broader Pentagon consensus. In the absence of a clear enemy, winning for much of the U.S. military's top brass has come to be synonymous with staying put. These days, senior officers talk about "infinite war."

"It's not losing," explained Air Force Gen. Mike Holmes in a speech earlier this year. "It's staying in the game and . . . pur-



Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, left, accompanied by Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, speaks outside the White House in September. President Donald Trump and some military officials are at odds over the president's pronouncements and strategy.

suing your objectives."

The Army recently rewrote its primary warfighting doctrine to account for the long stretch of fighting without victory since Sept. 11, 2001. "The win was too absolute," said Lt. Gen. Michael Lundy of the old document. "We concluded winning is more of a continuum."

Tension not new

The tension between the White House and the military over how and when to end America's wars is not entirely new. To the frustration of his generals, President Barack Obama announced plans in 2014 to pull all U.S. combat forces out of Afghanistan by the end of his presidency. "Americans have learned that it's harder to end wars than it is to begin them," he said. "Yet this is how wars end in the 21st century."

The decision drew heavy criticism from Republican lawmakers, and in 2016, with the Taliban expanding across Afghanistan, Obama decided to leave about 7,800 American troops in place.

Trump came to office promising to give the Pentagon a free hand to unleash the full force of U.S. firepower. His impatience was evident on his first full day in office when he visited the CIA and was ushered up to the agency's drone operations floor.

There agency officials showed him a feed from Syria, where Obama-era rules limited the agency to surveillance flights — part of a broader push by the previous administration to return the CIA to its core espionage mission and shift the job of killing terrorists to the military.

Trump urged the CIA to start arming its drones in Syria. "If you can do it in 10 days, get it done," he said, according to two former officials familiar with the meeting. Later, when the agency's head

of drone operations explained that the CIA had developed special munitions to limit civilian casualties, the president seemed nonplussed. Watching a previously recorded strike in which the agency held off on firing until the target had wandered away from a house with his family inside, Trump asked, "Why did you wait?" one participant in the meeting recalled.

On the campaign trail, Trump often said that he would "take out" the families of terrorists.

Since taking office, Trump has boosted airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, a key element in the military's campaign to help its proxies rout ISIS from its strongholds. "We've had tremendous military success against ISIS," Trump said last week. "It's close to 100 percent."

But the attacks haven't addressed the sectarian rivalries that created ISIS. In some instances they have inadvertently allowed forces allied with Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad and Iranian-backed militias to extend their influence. For many in the military and Congress, the 100 percent defeat of ISIS hardly feels like a victory.

'Who is winning?'

"Who is winning in Syria?" Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., asked the commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East last month when he appeared before lawmakers.

"Well, again, from — from the — from a civil war standpoint it would appear that the regime is ascendant," Gen. Joseph Votel stammered in reply.

"Is our policy still that Assad must go?" Graham continued.

Votel indicated that he wasn't sure.

"Well, if you don't know, I doubt if anybody knows, because this is your job," an exasperated Gra-

ham said.

The exchange offered a rare window into the military's frustration. And it called to mind McMaster's oft-repeated insistence before entering the White House that simply targeting enemies was not a war-winning strategy, but the combat equivalent of, he said, "George Costanza in Seinfeld, 'leave on an up note' — just go in, do a lot of damage, and leave."

A similar dilemma for Trump has played out in Afghanistan, where U.S. airstrikes have increased sevenfold to rates not seen since the earliest days of the war. The bombing there has arrested the Afghan government's battlefield losses but so far seems unlikely to alter the course of the war.

The problem isn't a lack of military firepower, but the weak Afghan government, the persistence of safehavens in Pakistan and a Taliban movement that is fighting for its villages on terrain it knows intimately. The vast majority of Taliban fighters are killed within 5 miles of their home, U.S. officials said.

"As we learned so painfully in Iraq, defeat has meaning only in the eyes of the defeated," said Ryan Crocker, who served as ambassador in Iraq and Afghanistan. "The Taliban is not feeling defeated. The opposite."

Decades earlier, Crocker's father flew a B-17 bomber as part of the American armada that reduced the German city of Dresden to scorched rubble. "That's how you get people to feel defeated," Crocker said, "and no sane person would argue for doing it again."

Defining victory

In the absence of a campaign of annihilation, the struggle to define victory in America's never-ending wars has spanned three administrations.

Near the end of President George W. Bush's administration, Eliot Cohen recalled journeying to the basement of the Pentagon where a senior intelligence officer presented him with binders full of data that he and his staff had compiled to track U.S. progress in Afghanistan for the defense secretary, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs and others.

"Are we winning?" Cohen, then a top aide to the secretary of state, recalled asking.

The colonel looked down at the mountain of reports. "I have no idea sir," he replied.

Today in Kabul senior U.S. officials track more than 700 benchmarks designed to capture the progress of the Afghan government and its security forces. U.S. officials said the Afghans have hit 97 percent of those goals this year. More quietly they often debate whether they are even tracking the right things.

"Are these the metrics that put you on the trajectory to winning?" the senior military adviser to the four-star commander in Kabul recalled asking over the course

of 2016 and 2017. "How will you even know when you get there? God, it is hard."

New measurement

Last year, military commanders came up with yet another measurement to help define victory in a war now starting its 17th year. A classified study in Kabul concluded that once the Afghan government controlled 80 percent of the population, the insurgency would be rendered "irrelevant," said Gen. John R. Nicholson, the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

"We think if we get to about 80 percent or more we start to reach a tipping point," the general added.

The finding was based on a survey of insurgencies in India, Colombia, Angola, Burundi and Chad. Some have questioned the science behind the work. A similar study of 71 insurgencies by the Rand Corp., a federally funded think tank, played down the importance of holding terrain and concluded that insurgents who retain external support were nearly impossible to defeat. The Taliban continue to find sanctuary in Pakistan.

Other critics have questioned the United States' ability to even measure control in a place such as Afghanistan, where the insurgency is mostly rural and the government's reach has never really extended beyond major Afghan cities.



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MILITARY

Soldiers, families maneuver through obstacle run

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Soldiers and families at U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria got a little dirty Saturday and enjoyed the German sunshine during the 6th annual Grafenwoehr Rugged Terrain Obstacle Run.

Almost 500 U.S. soldiers, family members and NATO allies ran the 16-kilometer course, maneuvering through 20 obstacles that had runners crawling through mud, sawing logs and climbing up steep walls.

"It was fantastic. I feel great. This was one of the most physical things I've done in my time in the Army," said Pfc. Kaleb Coops, a scout with the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team on rotation in Europe, who was among the first to cross the finish line at the event.

"It was a good test. It really pushed my cardio," Coops said.

The rugged terrain run began as a way for U.S. soldiers to train with their units. The base later opened the course to all military ID card holders as an annual event.

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See more photos from the Rugged Terrain Obstacle Run at www.stripes.com/go/rugged



PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

Runners maneuver through the monkey bars during the Rugged Terrain Obstacle Run at Grafenwoehr, Germany, on Saturday.



From left: Runners jump over walls, attempt to fireman-carry each other across a muddy track and use ropes to climb to the top of an obstacle during Saturday's run.

Test to integrate THAAD, Patriot missile systems successful

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Missile Defense Agency on Friday succeeded in its first step to integrate the Army's two linchpin missile defense systems during testing of upgraded software at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The test demonstrated that the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, and the Patriot weapons systems could communi-

cate as an integrated system, the U.S. Missile Defense Agency said in a statement Friday. The tracking exercise simulated engagement of a live, short-range Lynx missile target, the agency said.

That target was launched from the missile range and was detected and tracked by THAAD's Army-Navy/Transportable Surveillance Radar Model 2 and by Patriot, MDA said.

During that tracking, THAAD

and Patriot exchanged messages through "tactical data links" and verified their mutual weapons systems, the MDA said. No live interceptors were launched during the test.

"These two weapon systems are vitally important as components of our layered ballistic missile defense system and it is critical that they are able to transmit data and communicate with one another," MDA Director Lt. Gen. Samuel

Greaves said in the statement.

Friday's test was overseen by the Ballistic Missile Defense System Operational Test Agency. Soldiers with the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas, also participated. The soldiers operating the equipment were not privy to the actual target launch time, the MDA said.

The Army plans to tie the systems together within the next two years.

This test was among the requirements of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act for the Army and the MDA to test the integration of the two systems each year, the agency said.

The most crucial need for such an integrated system is in South Korea, where the Army operates both to defend against possible missile attacks by North Korea.

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EUROPE

UK, US troops test using robots in breaching drill

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Humans took a back seat during a base exercise on Friday in which robots cleared obstacles for manned tanks and fighting vehicles.

U.S. and British troops participated in the Robotic Complex Breach Concept demonstration, during which several remote-controlled vehicles performed a task usually carried out by soldiers.

"We did a robotic breach today, which has never been done before. This is a historic moment," said 1st Lt. Cody Rothschild, an officer with the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, currently on rotation in Europe. "This is a great step forward for the Army, and for robotics."

The rotational armor brigade was the main armor element during the exercise. It provided suppressing fire with M1A2 Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, while remote-controlled U.K. Terrier engineering vehicles cleared a simulated minefield and bridged a tank trench.

Breaching enemy obstacles is one of the most dangerous tasks on a battlefield, said British Warrent Officer Robert Kemp.

"Any breach like this will have enemy weapons trained in on the area," Kemp said. "Robotizing breach operations takes away the risk of life and makes clearing enemy obstacles much safer."

This is great news for the engineers who would otherwise be on the front lines of an assault.

"It keeps us safe from being out there like sitting ducks," said Pvt. Jonathon Ramirez, an engineer with 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team.

"As an engineer, this means a lot to me," said 1st Lt. Felix Derosin, a platoon leader with the 2ABCT. "The casualty rate for a breach is expected to be 50 percent. Being able to take our guys away from that, and have some robots go in there, is a very positive thing for us. In the future, this can save engineers' lives."

The Terriers were controlled by British soldiers several hundred feet away inside U.S. Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

Besides the Terriers, the troops used other robotized systems, such as an unmanned M113 armored personnel carrier, to deliver walls of thick, white smoke to help cloak the breaching operation.

The drill also employed several models of drones, including the Puma Unmanned Aerial System to gather intelligence and the Instant Eye UAS to search for possible chemical weapons.

Though troops have been utilizing unmanned vehicles, especially drones, for decades, the use of the robotic systems at the demonstration was new to most of the troops involved.

"When I first came in, I didn't expect to be seeing robots doing (combat operations) like this. Being able to see it, eyes on, shows me what the future is going to be like, and it's pretty good," Derosin said.

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PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

An unmanned U.K. Terrier engineering vehicle clears mines during the Robotic Complex Breach Concept demonstration at Grafenwoehr, Germany, on Friday.



Spc. Brandon Burton reaches for an Instant Eye unmanned aerial system during the Robotic Complex Breach Concept demonstration Friday.



A U.K. Terrier drops a bundle into a tank trench during the demonstration at Grafenwoehr.



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VETERANS

Female vets fight to be written into history

By EMILY WAX-THIBODEAUX
The Washington Post

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — When Jenny Pacanowski took the floor, she stood tall, looked straight into the crowd and told her story just like this: When she — a former combat medic in Iraq — goes to veterans' events, she gets "that crossover handshake."

"You know the one, right?" she said. "When some guy reaches right over me to shake hands with a nearby guy. 'Thank you for your service,' they say to the man next to me."

"Even though I'm the Iraq War veteran," she said, her voice rising almost like a preacher's. "I'm the one who drove a military ambulance through the Sunni Triangle."

She grew so frustrated that she had "Combat Veteran" tattooed on her right forearm. "I shoulda got it tattooed on my forehead," she told a group of female veterans gathered in a creaky farmhouse in this old steel town.

Pacanowski, a poet and writing coach, is part of a growing national movement to bring the unvarnished experiences of women who have served into mainstream popular culture. As a result, more female veterans are attending memoir-writing retreats, learning new storytelling skills at workshops for stand-up comedy, screenwriting and improv, and performing in poetry slams and plays.

Pacanowski's workshop takes place about once a month, with several women huddled with notebooks and laptops near a crackling fire while her puppy naps atop blankets. Books filled with Vietnam War-era poetry are strewn across a table.

Wars are remembered with monuments and memorials, but also through the words of the people who fought them. Yet the most famous books, films and television shows about war are about men. Think "Platoon" and "Band of Brothers" and reading-list classics such as "The Red Badge of Courage" and "The Things They Carried."

Women have served in every American conflict dating to the Revolution. In the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, female units first known as "Team Ladies" and later called Female Engagement Teams were able to search and gather intelligence from women in areas where it was largely taboo for unrelated members of the opposite sex to touch.

Unacknowledged is that female servicemembers were often already in combat, the Pentagon officially opened all jobs to women in 2015. Women are now the fastest-growing group in the military, and there are nearly 2 million female veterans in the country.

Yet when Americans think about war, they still typically think of men, said Peter Molin, a retired Army infantry officer who deployed to Afghanistan and now teaches writing at Rutgers University.

"It's definitely an entrenched



PHOTOS BY MARK MAKELA/For The Washington Post

Jenny Pacanowski's writing workshop takes place about once a month, with several women huddled with notebooks and laptops.



Pacanowski carries her puppy after leading a writing workshop for combat women with her organization Females Veterans Empowered to Transition in Bethlehem, Pa.

male tradition in the country's popular mind. And it's just wrong because it hides their outstanding contributions," Molin said.

Women who are writing about the military are upending the "conventional and outdated idea" that our society should "send our boys to war to make them a man," he said.

Female veterans have also written about what Molin called the "absurdity and often toxic male world of the American military."

The military is like a "massive frat party. With weapons," Kayla Williams, a former sergeant and Arabic linguist, writes in her critically acclaimed book "Love My Rifle More Than You: Young and Female in the U.S. Army."

Williams, who is now director

of the Center for Women Veterans at Veterans Affairs, said more women should be "writing themselves back into history," penning works that focus not only on trauma, but also on triumph — ways they fought bravely or saved fellow soldiers.

"How can anyone know we even existed when our history is hidden?" said Williams, whose second memoir, "Plenty of Time When We Got Home: Love and Recovery in the Aftermath of War," is about her family's transition to healing.

In the past, when women in the military have been included in popular films, they were portrayed in highly sexualized characters, such as Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan "with her heav-

'How can anyone know we even existed when our history is hidden?'

Kayla Williams
former sergeant and Arabic linguist

ing chest," from "M.A.S.H.," set during the Korean War, said Jerri Bell, a retired naval officer and managing editor of O-Dark-Thirty, a literary journal for veterans.

Bell is teaching a memoir-writing workshop for female veterans at a VA hospital.

She and co-author Tracy Crow, a retired Marine Corps officer, unearthed thousands of letters and journals for their 2017 book, "It's My Country Too: Women's Military Stories from the American Revolution to Afghanistan," about the experiences of women in the military.

Pacanowski tries to create a supportive atmosphere for the women who attend her sessions. Posters on the farmhouse walls read: "Free Write ... without editing or punctuation" and "To write, we must be courageous."

She often tells her participants: "This is a place of fierce kindness, compassion, nonjudgment. You have the freedom to be vulnerable."

She also offers lots of dark-chocolate squares.

Tammy Barlet, who served eight years as an operations specialist with the Coast Guard, said Pacanowski's writing workshops have helped her get out of bed and "be with my tribe — my women veterans."

Less than a year after she started attending the workshops, Barlet was invited to a program called "Veterans Voices." From a stage in New York, she read aloud a piece she had written about how disorienting it was for her to return home after years patrolling the Persian Gulf.

Her family came to the reading, weeping in the audience as she spoke.

"I went through the channels at my local VA, a psychiatrist prescribed some medication, but I felt I needed more than some pills," she read, mentioning the depression she went through when she couldn't get pregnant after coming home, when she couldn't seem to shake the pain of the suicides of some of her shipmates.

She connected with a VA social worker, who encouraged her to leave a bad marriage and use her VA benefits to earn a bachelor's degree, which she received last year. She's now getting her master's in public health. She hopes to run for Congress one day.

"My mom often expresses to me how she feels she has her 'old Tammy' back," she read to the audience. "The woman who is ambitious, adventurous, strong and smart. I've reclaimed myself as a person, woman, sister, daughter, friend and a female veteran."

NATION

Dems in GOP country shift to gun restrictions

By THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press

OMAHA, Nebraska — Just 18 months after declaring his opposition to banning assault weapons, Nebraska Democrat Brad Ashford has changed his mind.

The former one-term congressman, now trying to win back an Omaha-area seat he lost in 2016, used to consider it futile to push for a ban while Republicans held power on Capitol Hill. But the student activism that has followed the rampage at a school in Parkland, Fla., has changed his thinking in a way that other high-profile shootings, including two in his hometown since 2007, had not.

Ashford's conversion mirrors the one underway in his party. Not long ago, a moderate record on guns would have been considered a plus for a Democratic candidate in the GOP-leaning suburbs and conservative outskirts of Nebraska's largest city. Today, even with Ashford's reversal, it's a vulnerability that his opponent in the May 15 Democratic primary has been quick to exploit.

That contest, along with races in Virginia, rural Pennsylvania and other places where gun control has been taboo, shows how far the Democratic Party has traveled on this issue. The November elections will test whether

er Democrats will make room for candidates who don't back all gun control measures.

"He should have been stronger on this," said Kara Eastman, 46,



Eastman

the political newcomer running against Ashford, 68, a former Republican, for the Democratic nomination in the 2nd Congressional District. "We need leaders who are going to stand up and fight for the kids."

Eastman, director of a children's nonprofit group and a community college board member, has focused her message on suburban women and young people. She and other progressives, energized by rallies across the country, say the best way to turn out voters is to offer a contrast to pro-gun Republicans.

"Women have had it with what's going on," said Crystal Rhoades, the Douglas County Democratic Party chairwoman who supports Eastman. "They're mad that they have to worry about sending their kids to school out of fear they'll be murdered."

Polling shows there's little disagreement among Democrats on the question of stricter gun laws.

A poll last month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 69 percent of those surveyed, including 90 percent of Democrats, think gun laws in the U.S. should be tightened.

There are political risks.

The Omaha district represented by Republican Rep. Don Bacon has a healthy number of gun owners, and that could make Eastman's call for comprehensive gun control a problem for her if she advances to the general election. The GOP-leaning district



Ashford

includes a portion of a rural county south of the city where many active-duty and retired military personnel from Offutt Air Force Base live.

"I don't think their mindset has changed. If you're pro-gun, you're still pro-gun," said Charlene Ligon, the Democratic chairwoman in rural Sarpy County. "And there are a lot of people with guns around here."

In a northern Virginia swing district, all six Democrats who hope to challenge the Republican incumbent, Rep. Barbara Comstock, want to ban assault rifles and expand background checks for gun buyers. In 2016, Comstock's Democratic opponent endorsed only modest changes.

Last month, Democrat Conor Lamb won a special congressional election in southwestern Pennsylvania in which he advocated expanded background checks, a once disqualifying position in a district that Donald Trump won by 20 percentage points in 2016.

Lamb stopped short of embracing an assault weapons ban, though Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., has joined the call. And longtime gun advocate Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., led an unsuccessful effort to expand background checks in 2015.

"It certainly seems to be a realignment of what was viewed as politically expedient," said Andrew Patrick, of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. "This is no longer a liability for Democrats."

While Nebraska's Ashford advocated some gun control measures during two terms in the state Legislature, he said during a 2016 debate with Bacon, "I don't think we should ban assault weapons."

In Washington, Ashford did not

join lawmakers from both parties in backing legislation to expand background checks, saying any gun measures would have proved futile in the GOP-controlled House. Nor did he go along with about 150 Democratic co-sponsors on a measure to ban assault rifles after the shooting in San Bernardino, Calif., in 2015.

"I had no belief that putting a lot of effort in an assault weapons ban would get us anywhere," Ashford said in an Associated Press interview. "I had sort of lost faith in our ability to ever get there."

The students in Florida and elsewhere who mobilized after the Parkland shooting have changed Ashford's mind. "The Parkland thing, now I just feel reinvigorated, and I would vote for an assault weapons ban today," he said.

Eastman, his primary opponent, is keeping the pressure on.

She accuses Ashford of being on both sides of the issue at a time when voters, especially young people and parents, demand action. And she's ready to deliver, saying she supports an assault weapons ban, universal background checks and an automatic waiting period between purchase and delivery.

"I'm talking to voters; they are frustrated with that and are looking for someone who stands by their convictions," she said.

New transportation grants ditch bikes and walkways

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Forget about bike-share stations in Chicago or pedestrian walkways in Oakland. That's so Obama-era.

In the Trump administration, a popular \$500 million transportation grant program is focused more on projects in rural areas that turned out for President Donald Trump in the 2016 election. That means more road and rail projects in GOP strongholds, such as Idaho, North Dakota, and Oklahoma, and fewer "greenways," "complete streets" and bike lanes.

The latest round of those grants has nothing for New York City, Los Angeles or Chicago. Money in those Democratic heavy states went instead to projects in Trump-friendly regions: repainting a bridge in New York's North Country, contributing to a highway project in Modesto, Calif., and upgrading an interstate highway in southern Illinois.

It's a refusing from the priorities of the previous administration, which gave most of these TIGER—or, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery—grants to urban areas represented by President Barack Obama's Democratic allies on Capitol Hill.

"I was very pleased," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, when asked about the focus on rural areas. Maine won \$10.8 million to help repair three rural bridges on routes critical to the state's timber industry.

The program was established under Obama's 2009 economic recovery bill. The grants, distributed at the discretion of the administration, are just a small fraction of the overall federal transportation dollars when compared with more than \$50 billion distributed annually to states by formula from the highway trust fund.



MATT BARNARD, TULSA (OKLA.) WORLD/AP

Construction workers prepare for the tearing down of a U.S. 75 bridge deck over Southwest Boulevard in Tulsa, Okla. New transportation grant money is being focused on projects in rural areas.

Trump has twice targeted the grant program for elimination, only to sign a huge spending bill into law last month that tripled its budget to \$1.5 billion.

Questions arose during the Obama administration about political favoritism when grants consistently went in greater numbers to congressional districts represented by Democrats. For example, in 2013, about two-thirds of TIGER money was awarded to such districts.

One of those grants went to help Florida International University construct a pedestrian bridge over a busy road. The structure collapsed last month, killing six people.

Grants are awarded according to a competitive process that analyzes criteria such as economic benefits, safety, state of disrepair and the environmental benefits of projects. The Government Accountability Office looked into the program a few years ago at the request of then-Sen. David Vitter, R-La., and found that projects with lower grades often won over top-rated projects.

Of the 41 grants announced by the Trump administration, 25 totaling \$271 million were awarded to projects in congressional districts represented by Republicans. Districts represented by Democrats garnered 14 projects and \$190 million. Two grants worth \$25 million went to projects spanning district lines.

That's a reversal from the Obama administration, which in its last year in office provided just \$102 million in grants to rural areas. That was just above the 20 percent minimum required by the law that established the program.

The Obama administration funded numerous urban projects centered on pedestrian walkways and bike trails. More than one-third of Obama's final round of grants featured bike-friendly projects. A 2016 grant, for instance, helped pay for a "multi-modal greenway" in Lexington, Ky., to integrate a network of bike and pedestrian trails.

Such Trump grants contain just a handful of such projects, including a pedestrian and bike trail along the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia and preservation of a historic railroad pedestrian bridge in Mill City, Ore.

The Trump administration is focused more on economic development projects such as port upgrades in Alabama, Baltimore and New Orleans. Some \$25 million would help Arizona ease congestion from a busy U.S.-Mexico port of entry in Nogales.

Other projects include reopening an inactive freight rail line in Idaho, easing traffic in Big Sky, a tourist destination in Montana, and contributing to a highway bypass around Lincoln, Neb.

NATION

3 states brace for onslaught of twisters, fires

By KEN MILLER

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Emergency officials in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas are bracing for two types of disasters as spring gets into full swing: the start of what's historically the most active time of year for tornadoes plus wildfire threats brought on by severe drought.

April, May and June are the most active months in the U.S. for tornadoes. At the same time, the three states on the southern end of Tornado Alley are experiencing extreme and exceptional drought that could fuel wildfires.

Tornado Alley extends from northern Texas and covers much of Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota, plus slivers of New Mexico and Colorado, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Storm Prediction Center.

The past three years, the U.S. has seen an average of more than 600 tornadoes during April, May and June, according to the center. That is more than half the average of 1,186 tornadoes per year during that time span, although the numbers from the last three months of 2017 are still considered preliminary.

Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas are accustomed to preparing for multiple emergency situations happening at once and train with various agencies to account for different possibilities.

"We're typically preparing for worst-case scenarios year-round anyway," state Department of Emergency Management spokeswoman Kelli Cain said, noting that

the SPC reports Oklahoma City has been struck by more tornadoes than any other U.S. city, with more than 100 known twisters. "We do have some experience at that. We plan for all hazards anyway."

Katie Horner, spokeswoman for the Kansas adjutant general's division of emergency management, said that last year the state dealt with a blizzard, an ice storm, fire, flooding and a tornado warning all in the same week. "We train not only for one or two events in a day, but three or four events in a day," she said.

Chip Orton, the emergency management director for Amarillo, a city of about 200,000 in the Texas Panhandle, said: "My job is to be worried. That's why we come to work every day. Is it likely? Probably not. Could it happen? Sure."

While tornadoes are the result of thunderstorms, which are created from conditions that include moisture, the current dry conditions in the area do not preclude twisters, said Storm Prediction Center meteorologist Patrick Marsh. He noted that two tornadoes were reported in the Texas Panhandle on March 18, even as the area was rated in extreme drought.

Some private forecasting services are predicting an increase in tornadoes during the coming months, based largely on the fact that there was the climate phenomenon La Nina during the past winter. They're expecting weather patterns in the coming months to be wetter and warmer than usual, particularly in the southeastern U.S. and along the Gulf Coast.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/AP

Floodwaters cover Cooks Meadow and its pedestrian trail in Yosemite Valley in Yosemite, Calif., on Saturday. Sections of some roads were closed due to high water, and parts of Yosemite National Park were closed.

Heavy rain brings flooding conditions in Northern Calif.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Up to 6 inches of rain fell over two days as a drenching "Pineapple Express" storm swelled rivers and flooded roads in Northern California, forecasters said Saturday.

The heaviest rain was in the northern Sierra and in coastal counties from San Francisco north to Mendocino during a 48-hour period beginning Thursday afternoon, the National Weather Service said.

Downtown San Francisco saw nearly 2 inches on Friday, making for the fourth-wettest April day since record-keeping began.

The storm tapered off by late Saturday morning but minor

flooding continued along the swollen Truckee River near Lake Tahoe.

Yosemite National Park's Yosemite Valley remained closed Saturday night, but officials said they would assess whether to reopen midday Sunday, depending on conditions.

No major problems were reported, but runoff from melting snow could add to the chance of rapidly rising streams and rivers, forecasters warned.

The wet weather resulted from a strong "atmospheric river" of subtropical moisture that moved east from Hawaii.

Police rescued a man who became trapped in a rain-swollen drainage channel near Sacra-

mento, where many roads were flooded. The state capital saw more than 1.17 inches of rain on Friday.

Sonoma County officials said there were no major mudslides in areas stripped bare by last fall's wildfires.

San Francisco International Airport reported about 150 canceled flights because of the weather and others were delayed.

To the north, state officials warned that they may have to use the partially rebuilt spillway at Oroville Dam for the first time since repairs began on the badly damaged structure last summer.

The water level in Lake Oroville topped 797 feet on Saturday.

Body may be from family SUV crash

Associated Press

MENDOCINO, Calif. — A body was recovered Saturday in the vicinity where an SUV plunged off a Northern California cliff last month, killing a family of eight in what authorities suspect may have been an intentional crash.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's office said in a statement that a couple vacationing along the coast saw a possible body, which was pulled from the surf Saturday and buried by a body bag.

The body appears to be that of a black female, but the age and identity could not immediately be determined, said Lt. Shannon Barney. An autopsy is planned to determine a cause of death.

While authorities said they knew the body may be that of one of two missing girls from the

crash, positive identification will most likely be done by DNA analysis, which could take weeks.

Sarah and Jennifer Hart and their six adopted children were believed to be in the family's SUV when it plunged off a cliff last month. Five bodies were found March 26 near Mendocino, a few days after Washington state authorities began investigating the Harts for possible child neglect, but three of their children were not immediately recovered from the scene.

There were no signs of the other two children, authorities said Saturday.

Authorities have said that data from the vehicle's software suggested the crash was deliberate. They said the SUV had stopped at a coastal highway overlook before speeding straight off the cliff

and plummeting 100 feet into the rocky Pacific Ocean below.

Sarah Hart pleaded guilty in 2011 to a domestic assault charge in Minnesota over what she said was a spanking given to one of her children.

Bruce and Dana DeKalb, the family's next-door neighbors in Woodland, Wash., called child welfare officials last month because the couple's 15-year-old son, Devonte, had been coming to their house almost every day for a week, asking for food. They said the teen claimed his parents were "punishing" him by withholding food.

Devonte, a black boy who is still missing, drew national attention after he was photographed in tears while hugging a white police officer during a 2014 protest.

Magnitude 4.6 earthquake rattles Okla., other states

Associated Press

COVININGTON, Okla. — A magnitude 4.6 earthquake shook Oklahoma on Saturday and was also felt in neighboring Kansas and Missouri, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

It was one of four earthquakes recorded in northwest Oklahoma on Saturday morning. Garfield County Emergency Management Director Mike Hongsberg said there are no immediate reports of injury or serious damage following the quakes.

The largest tremor was at 7:16 a.m. a few miles outside Covington, a town of about 500 people. Reports on the USGS website show it was felt as far away as Kansas City, Mo., some 300 miles

northeast of Covington. People in Joplin, Mo., and Wichita, Kan., also reported feeling it.

Saturday's quakes were in the same area where four others struck Friday, including one of magnitude 3.7.

The threshold for damage usually starts at 4.0. The strongest earthquake on record in Oklahoma was a magnitude 5.8 recorded near Pawnee in September 2016.

Many of the thousands of earthquakes in Oklahoma in recent years have been linked to the underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas production. State regulators have directed several producers to close or reduce volumes in some wells.

NATION

Trump suggests China will ease trade barriers

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is suggesting China will ease trade barriers “because it is the right thing to do” and Washington and Beijing can settle disputes that have rattled financial markets, consumers and businesses.

A new Trump tweet doesn’t explain why he’s optimistic about resolving an escalating trade clash between the world’s two biggest economies.

Trump says he and Chinese President Xi Jinping “will always be friends, no matter what happens with our dispute on trade.”

Trump insists “China will take down its Trade Barriers because it is the right thing to do. Taxes will become Reciprocal & a deal will be made on Intellectual Property. Great future for both countries!”

The U.S. bought more than \$500 billion in goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports. The U.S. sold

about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China responds in kind.

China has pledged to “counterattack with great strength” if Trump decides to follow through on his latest threat to impose tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in Chinese goods — after an earlier announcement that targeted \$50 billion.

The Trump administration also is pushing for a crackdown on what it says is China’s theft of U.S. intellectual property.

Conflicting messages about the trade fight have come out in recent days from some top members of Trump’s team.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said he was “cautiously optimistic” the U.S. and China could reach an agreement before any tariffs went into place. But he also said “there is the potential of a trade war.”

The new White House economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, has said the U.S. is “not in a trade war” and that “China is the problem. Blame China, not Trump.”



CRAIG RUTLIE/AP

A firefighter looks out from the window of a damaged apartment in Trump Tower on Saturday. The New York Fire Department says the blaze broke out on the 50th floor shortly before 6 p.m. Saturday.

Man killed in fire at Trump Tower

By KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A raging fire that tore through a 50th-floor apartment at Trump Tower killed a man inside and sent flames and thick, black smoke pouring from windows of the president’s namesake skyscraper.

New York Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said the cause of Saturday’s blaze is not yet known but the apartment was “virtually entirely on fire” when firefighters arrived after 5:30 p.m.

“It was a very difficult fire, as you can imagine,” Nigro told reporters outside the building in midtown Manhattan. “The apartment is quite large.”

Todd Brassner, 67, who was in the apartment, was taken to a hospital and died a short time later, the New York Police Department said. Property records obtained by The Associated Press indicate Brassner was an art dealer who had purchased his 50th-floor unit in 1996.

Officials said four firefighters also suffered minor injuries. An investigation is ongoing.

Shortly after news of the fire broke, Trump, who was in Washington, tweeted: “Fire at Trump Tower is out. Very Confined (well built building). Firemen (and women) did a great job. THANK YOU!”

Asked if that assessment was accurate, Nigro said: “It’s a well-built building. The upper floors, the residence floors, are not sprinklered.”

Fire sprinklers were not required in New York City high-rises when Trump Tower was completed

in 1983. Subsequent updates to the building code required commercial skyscrapers to install the sprinklers retroactively, but owners of older residential high-rises are not required to install sprinklers unless the building undergoes major renovations.

Nigro noted that no member of the Trump family was in the 664-foot tower Saturday.

Trump’s family has an apartment on the top floors of the 58-story building, but he has spent little time in New York since taking office. The headquarters of the Trump Organization is on the 26th floor.

Nigro said firefighters and Secret Service members checked on the condition of Trump’s apartment. About 200 firefighters and emergency medical service workers responded to the fire, he said.

Some residents said they didn’t get any notification from building management to evacuate. Lalitha Masson, 76, a resident, called it “a very, very terrifying experience.”

Masson told The New York Times that she did not receive any announcement about leaving, and that when she called the front desk no one answered.

“When I saw the television, I thought we were finished,” said Masson, who lives on the 36th floor with her husband, Narinder, who is 79 and has Parkinson’s disease.

She said she started praying because she felt it was the end.

“I called my oldest son and said goodbye to him because the way it looked everything was falling out of the window, and it reminded me of 9/11,” Masson said.

White House seeks OK to track, destroy drones posing threat

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Citing a growing threat that terrorists will use drones for surveillance or as weapons, the Trump administration is asking Congress to give the Homeland Security and Justice departments the power to track, reroute or destroy the devices, according to a copy of the legislative proposal obtained by The Washington Post.

The legislation would free safety and security officials from those agencies, and their contractors, from laws against intercepting electronic communications that officials say have hamstrung their ability to protect sensitive facilities from cheap and powerful unmanned aircraft.

It would also give wide discretion to those working for the government, outside observers said. The full picture of which facilities would fall under the new authorities remains unclear. Those facilities would be subject to what the proposed legislation calls a “risk-based assessment” as well as regulations and guidance that would be shielded from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

“Overseas, ISIS, other terrorist groups, and criminal and organized crime use commercially available (unmanned aircraft systems) to drop explosive payloads, deliver harmful substances, and conduct reconnaissance,” says a document accompanying the legislative text. “Law enforcement and homeland security professionals are gravely concerned that terrorists and criminals will use the nefarious tactics engineered overseas in the homeland.”

The proposal comes weeks before the Transportation Department plans to announce which states, communities and companies have been selected as part of an administration push to expand drone use nationwide. The White House announced the drone integration pilot program in October, and groups from Nevada to Virginia have applied. Firms including Google, Uber and Amazon.com have teamed with communities on the effort.

Supporters want the ability to fly drones in ways that generally are not allowed today, such as roam-

ing across a wide area outside the direct view of the operator. Security officials have long raised concerns, and the pilot program and legislation are among efforts to address them.

Among the specific “facilities and assets” where authorities could interfere with or take down drones are Secret Service protection missions; operations to protect federal judges and witnesses; efforts to secure Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection vessels; and Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities. Designated “national special security events,” such as international summits, inaugurations and major sporting events could also be covered.

Administration officials said they are seeking the authority only to address “a narrowly defined set of sensitive missions,” according to supporting documents. But how narrowly or broadly the authority would be applied would be left to the departments, in consultation with the secretary of transportation, according to the proposal.

Authorities would also gain counterdrone powers in situations involving “active federal law enforcement investigations, emergency responses or security operations” or in cases where “there is reason to believe” a national security threat “may involve unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft.”

John Donohue, director of the Center on National Security and the Law at Georgetown University Law Center, said that the threat from drones is real but the proposal as written is too deferential to federal judgments about potential dangers and raises First Amendment and other concerns.

Drones “can be preprogrammed, be controlled remotely, travel at speeds of 90 mph and be difficult to intercept — particularly when designed to avoid objects and missions,” and “affectiveness are needed,” Donohue said.

But while authorities would be empowered to interfere with electronic communications controlling potentially dangerous drones, they also could gain authority over video feeds or other newsworthy or politically sensitive information collected by the drones, she said.

NATION

Home delivery of marijuana still a pipe dream for most

By SOPHIE QUINTON
Stateline.org

It's been legal to buy small amounts of marijuana in Colorado for more than four years. But consumers can't order buds, edibles or the marijuana concentrate called "shatter" through the mail — that's illegal under federal law. And they can't have weed delivered to their doorstep, like a pizza or an order of pad thai.

Lawmakers in Colorado and other states that pioneered recreational marijuana legalization have been reluctant to allow home delivery, even in an era when consumers are used to getting everything from diamond rings to toilet paper delivered.

Supporters say delivery makes it easier for medical marijuana patients to get their medicine, helps licensed marijuana businesses compete with the black market and could reduce drugged driving. Opponents say delivery could make it easier for kids to buy drugs and could turn delivery cars into targets for thieves.

Skeptics also say launching a risky service could attract unwanted federal attention. Denver is concerned that marijuana delivery could cause additional safety issues and draw federal scrutiny, according to a statement from Eric Escudero, communications director for the city's Department of Excises and Licenses.

Earlier this year, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescinded Obama-era guidance that had told federal prosecutors not to target marijuana businesses that are licensed and regulated.

Colorado legislators last year rejected language in a bill that would have legalized marijuana delivery. Now they're considering a pilot program instead. Democratic state Rep. Jonathan Singer, a sponsor of both bills, said the earlier proposal failed because it went too far, too fast for some of his colleagues. The current bill is "a slow step in the right direction," he said.

Colorado, Washington state, Alaska and Washington, D.C., don't allow home delivery of marijuana. Oregon, California and Nevada do, but services are not universal. In Oregon, state data show that close to two-thirds of counties have a dispensary licensed to make recreational marijuana deliveries. In California, marijuana industry advocates say that less than a third of cities and counties in the state allow retail marijuana sales, which could include home delivery.

But illegal and quasi-legal delivery businesses are widespread regardless of the law.

Washington, D.C., for instance, allows cannabis possession but not sales. So businesses, including delivery companies, are selling overpriced stickers, cookies

and cold-pressed juice with a gift of cannabis thrown in. "At Juiced, we make sure that all our products make an impact that will enhance your spirit and your mood ☺," says one such company's website, with a coy smiley face emoji.

In Colorado, opponents of legalizing home delivery include law enforcement, county officials, the city of Denver and Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper.

"That notion of having a delivery person go around house to house and dropping off potentially significant amounts of marijuana — any amount of marijuana — I think we look at that as just a hazard," Hickenlooper told the Cannabisist, a website of the Denver Post, last spring when the Legislature was considering legalizing home delivery statewide.

"And if we're really serious about keeping marijuana out of the hands of teenagers," he said, "delivery service offers more opportunity for that marijuana to get into the hands of kids."

Home delivery could also bring marijuana sales into counties that don't allow such sales, said Eric Bergman, policy director at Colorado Counties Inc., a membership association for county officials. More than half of the state's counties prohibit marijuana businesses within their jurisdiction, according to state data. Some cities within those counties' borders do allow marijuana businesses to



CHRISTINA HOUSE/LOS ANGELES TIMES

A customer shops at MedMen in West Hollywood on Jan. 2, the first day of recreational marijuana sales in California.

operate.

Marijuana businesses, meanwhile, are lobbying for a change in the law. Advocates for a San Francisco-based marijuana delivery startup called Eaze, which some have called "Uber for weed," have told Colorado lawmakers that technology can help allay some of their concerns.

For instance, the Eaze app blocks orders to places where delivery isn't allowed. "Eaze has a whole team of people that monitors, is it legal in that city? Is it legal in that ZIP code?" said Elizabeth Conwyn, principal at Gide LLC, a firm that lobbies for cannabis and tech companies.

(States that do allow marijuana home delivery don't allow just anyone to drive around with weed for sale. Oregon's rules address when pot can be delivered (8 a.m. to 9 p.m.), where (only houses and apartments in the locality where the retailer is licensed), how often (one delivery per person per day), and to whom (adults over 21), for instance. Drivers can't take more than \$3,000 worth of weed prod-

ucts for delivery at one time.

California's long list of rules includes a requirement that delivery vehicles be outfitted with a GPS tracking system and prohibits "unmanned vehicles" such as autonomous cars from delivering weed.

Cities and counties in both states can opt out of allowing delivery or set more stringent rules, adding further complication.

For businesses, the biggest concern isn't what they need to do to get licensed but whether localities will allow them to operate at all, said Max Mikalinos, legislative advocate for the California Cannabis Delivery Association. "There are huge swaths of the state that cannot legally be delivered to."

In recent years several California marijuana delivery drivers have been robbed, some at gunpoint. Such incidents have been cited by Colorado law enforcement groups in their arguments against allowing delivery services there.

DC's permanent pop-up bar stays fresh with flowers, monsters

By RACHEL NANIA
WTOP-FM (Washington)

WASHINGTON — In December 2015, business partners Angie Fetherston and Derek Brown put ham on hold at their 7th Street sherry bar and instead filled the 1,110-square-foot space with snowflake cutouts, carolers and Christmas cocktails.

Embracing the holiday spirit with holiday spirits paid off. The aptly named "Miracle on 7th Street" pop-up bar was a wild success. Throughout its month-long residency, lines stretched down the block and the wait to get in lasted hours on many nights.

"So many people came to the door and we had a lot of fun doing it," said Brown, now the president of Drink Company, whose Columbia Room was named the best American cocktail bar in 2017. When the 2016 holiday season rolled around, it made sense to swap sherry for eggnog once again. This time, Brown's neighboring bars, Eat the Rich and Southern Efficiency, joined in, and the team took its Christmas crafting to a new level. There were icicles, narwhals, even an ode to "Stranger Things."

A few months later, Brown



RACHEL NANIA, WTOP (WASHINGTON)/AP

The 2017 cherry blossom pop-up bar is seen in Washington in an undated photo.

and his team announced plans for a spring pop-up bar, honoring Washington's iconic cherry blossoms. A "Game of Thrones" theme launched during the summer, followed by a Halloween bar in the fall — all of which led back to Miracle on 7th Street in December.

Now Brown's three former restaurants are no longer open. The adjoining spaces exist under one name: PUB — for pop-up bar —

a concept dedicated to creating temporary thematic bars.

"We see the response from people and they really love it. That's why we open bars in the first place, is so people can come in and enjoy it," Brown said about his idea to make the pop-up bar permanent.

"To watch the outpouring of interest and genuine affection for the place is what makes us really want to do it."

The pop-ups last only a few weeks, but each takes months to plan. Drink Company has two full-time employees dedicated to designing each concept.

"It has to be about an environment. We're creating a space that people are going to walk into," he said earlier for that, Brown said.

In the past three years, the pop-up bar has evolved from paper cutouts to animatronics. This year's cherry blossom pop-up, which opened March 1, features a 10-foot-tall Godzilla that roars and blows smoke. There also are 90,000 plastic cherry blossoms, 1,000 paper butterflies, a Japanese tea house and Tokyo's Memory Lane.

"From the beginning, we've put a lot of effort into [the pop-up bars], but it just keeps ramping up, and I don't think we know the word 'halfway,'" Brown said.

To support the growing visions, Drink Company has an off-site studio dedicated to decor, plus a storage unit to keep items from years past. Brown said the company even hires contractors and artists to help with the installation.

"And we have to take all this down, as well as people don't think about that," he added.

Creating the Instagram-worthy

scenes doesn't come cheaply. Brown estimates that each pop-up costs between \$20,000 and \$30,000 to execute — and that's just in decorations and supplies.

"We're not getting wildly rich off this, but it is something we're able to make money on and we're grateful for that," Brown said.

Now in its seventh iteration, the 7th Street pop-up bar hasn't lost its luster. Even in a city where new restaurants, bars and food trends are a dime a dozen, lines still form outside PUB during peak times.

"Those lines are an indication that people really want to get in here and see this. And to watch them walk through the door and that sense of wonder and wow that they have is really cool," Brown said.

He credits his staff for keeping the concept fresh.

"I've heard people talk about, 'Oh, we see it's successful, we see the line, we're going to do a pop-up.' But it's really, really hard work and you have to have people who are very creative and thoughtful. And that's why I think our pop-ups have been successful from the beginning, is because we have these creative, smart people who can figure things out like how to make a giant monster."

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

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Sunday, March 25, 1945

For the troops

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NATION

Food for the soul

Eatery fed more than stomachs during the civil rights movement

By JENNIFER BIGGS

The (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — When Irene and Clint Cleaves opened The Four Way Grill in 1946, they couldn't have known that the tiny restaurant attached to a pool hall and a barber shop would become an institution in the civil rights movement 20 years later.

They wouldn't have known that a teenager in Atlanta would become a man who would change a nation, that they would foster the community he led, that they would feed him as he fed the souls of men and women fighting for justice and equal rights.

But The Four Way's place in history is sealed to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the man who loved Irene Cleaves' fried catfish, fried chicken and her peach cobbler. Just as other soul food restaurants across the country, particularly in the South, offered a safe place for activists to talk, so went The Four Way.

"In the black community, the soul food restaurants and the churches were the prime places for people to meet and organize," said Adrian Miller, an author whose 2013 book "Soul Food: The Surprising Story of an American Cuisine, One Plate at a Time" won the 2014 James Beard Foundation Book Award for Reference and Scholarship.

King was killed in Memphis on April 4, 1968, a day after he came to town in support of the sanitation workers on strike. There's no record of him eating at The Four Way on that visit, but folks who still eat in the restaurant today will never forget those two days.

Joyce Walton Lindsey, 73, was a student at the time, working on her master's degree. On April 3 she went with friends to hear King speak at Mason Temple, but he wasn't there. Instead, she said, she recalls it was Ralph Abernathy, Jesse Jackson and James Bevel.

"In the church we began to chant 'Dr. King, Dr. King,' so they went and got him," she said.

King was resting, but he came to speak. Lindsey said when he started, "he appeared subdued, even nervous."

"In the midst of him speaking, it was like a spirit came up over him to let him know 'You're gonna be all right,' and this is when he began to really speak," she said. "And he let us know that he feared no man and that he had been to the mountaintop and he



PHOTOS BY BRAD VEST, THE (MEMPHIS, TENN.) COMMERCIAL APPEAL/AP

Roslyn Payne works the cash register at The Four Way Grill, a soul food restaurant in Memphis, Tenn.



A customer enters The Four Way Grill.

had looked out over the mountaintop. He said, 'I may not get there with you.'

Among those dining near Lindsey was a group of ministers who met at the restaurant weekly. Among them was Edward Parker, the minister of Berean Missionary Baptist Church. Almost 80, he remembers The Four Way not just as a place for meeting during the civil rights movement but also as a part of his history.

The room in back, where you had to ring a bell to be admitted, was where it all took place. Today you can see the door, but it opens into an expanded kitchen instead of a dining room with white tablecloths.

"The Four Way was also a place for socializing," Parker said. "This was a plush restaurant. It was exquisite. It had the best of everything. It was where you would bring your best girl."

But it was more than that.

"We would come in the evening and have a beer or a Coke and sit and discuss the affairs and the situation of the day," he said.

And sometimes, plans would be

laid.

"From time to time, (the Rev. Samuel) Billy (Kyles) would come in and share. He was such a mover in the civil rights movement."

The late Kyles was King's friend, the man who arrived at the Lorraine Motel on April 4 to take him to dinner at his home. Exactly 10 minutes after he arrived, King was shot on the balcony of the motel.

Clint Cleaves died in 1970; his wife lived until 1998 but her restaurant floundered as her health declined. In 2001, Willie Bates and a partner bought it on the courthouse steps. Bates died in 2016; the restaurant is now owned and run by his daughter, Patrice Bates Thompson.

Bates had seen the LeMayne Gardens, the apartments where he grew up, razed to make way for a new development.

"I think that sealed it for him," Thompson said. "He wanted to preserve his neighborhood."

People told him to move the restaurant, but Bates said that he laughed at anyone who told him to do that, that there was no point in



A hot plate of food is ready to be delivered at The Four Way Grill

having The Four Way if it wasn't in the original location. He knew he could get someone to cook the food anywhere, but the ground was where the magic was.

King is the dignitary most associated with the restaurant, but in 2011, when The Four Way was recognized on its 65th anniversary, Bates said: "Elvis Presley ate here, too. And B.B. King and even Don King. We like to say we've had all the kings."

Albert King, too, Thompson points out, and Martin Luther King III, listing a roster of other celebrities, activists and politicians who have been in over the years. The proximity to Stax Records made it a natural for some of them; others sought it specifically for the food or to sit in the storied walls.

There's Aretha Franklin, Isaac Hayes, Jesse Jackson, Rosa Parks, Carla Thomas, Rufus Thomas, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis, Steve Harvey, Alex Haley.

"Drake did part of a video in here," she said. "And Obama was scheduled to come when he was in town to speak at Booker T. Washington but he wasn't able to make it."

As far as civil rights workers

and activists, it wasn't just King.

"As I've heard it, many days people would work all day, march and it would be late in the night before they could eat, but Mrs. Cleaves would open up and cook a meal for them," she said.

Miller pointed out that opening a soul food restaurant in segregated days held particular appeal.

"An African-American restaurant was one of the few places an African-American owner could excel in business without white interference," he said.

Thompson said it's hard work, but she's proud of the restaurant, her father, and to be carrying on the legacy.

"We get people from all over the world," she said. "I have a guest book and you'll see people from Arkansas and Mississippi and then people from France, Greece, Germany. We were on the Travel Channel and last year on Showtime, when Navy came to town to play Memphis. My son plays for Navy and Showtime had that show, 'A Season with Navy Football.' We were on episode 6."

"Of course we have a lot of regulars, and I don't forget how it started. It was a special place for our people to go."

WORLD

Motive in Germany van attack is unclear

BY KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
AND DOROTHEE THIESING
Associated Press

MUENSTER, Germany — The 48-year-old German man who drove a van into a crowd in the western city of Muenster was well-known to police and had a history of run-ins with the law, German prosecutors said Sunday, adding that they believe he acted alone.

The man, whose name was not released, killed two people and injured 20 others Saturday afternoon outside a bar in the city's old town before shooting himself to death inside the van.

He was a Muenster resident and apparently well off. The city's police president, Hajo Kuhlisch, said the man's four apartments — two in Muenster and two in Saxony — and several cars had been searched thoroughly, but that police were still investigating the evidence and it was too early to speculate about the van driver's motive.

"We have no indications that there is a political background or that others were involved" in Saturday's deadly crash, prosecutor Elke Adomeit told reporters. "But he was well known to the police."

She said the man had three previous court procedures in Muenster and one in nearby Arnsberg in 2015 and 2016. His run-ins with the law regarded threats, property damage, fraud and a hit-and-run, but Adomeit said that all charges were dismissed.

Local media have identified the man as an industrial designer who had been suffering from psychological problems, but police would not confirm those details.



German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, right, on Sunday visits the place in Muenster, Germany, where a vehicle crashed into a crowd Saturday, killing two people.

Authorities have identified the two victims killed by the van crash as a 51-year-old woman from Lueneburg county, 186 miles to the northeast, and a 65-year-old man from nearby Borken county. Their names weren't given, as is customary in Germany.

Early Sunday, all three bodies were taken from the crash scene in front of the well-known Kiepenkerl pub. The silver-grey van that crashed into the crowd was hauled away hours later after explosives experts had thoroughly checked it.

Inside the van, police found illegal firecrackers that were disguised as a fake bomb, a fake pistol and the real gun that the driver used to kill himself.

Inside the apartment where the man was

'We have no indications that there is a political background or that others were involved.'

Elke Adomeit
German prosecutor

living, which was near the crash scene, police found more firecrackers and a "no-longer usable AK-47 machine gun."

Officials said some of the 20 people injured were still in a life-threatening condition Sunday. They have not identified them, but said that people from The Netherlands are among them.

Armin Laschet, the governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state where Muenster is located, toured the city Sunday.

"This was a horrible and sad day for the people of Muenster, all of Germany ... and also the people of The Netherlands, who were sitting here and became victims," he said.

The local daily Muenstersche Zeitung reported that the perpetrator had vaguely announced his suicide plans a week ago in an email to friends, but police wouldn't confirm those details.

German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, who visited the crash scene with Laschet on Sunday and placed flowers there, said "this cowardly and brutal crime has shocked all of us."

Female mayor sees sumo sexism

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — A female mayor in western Japan protested sumo's male-only rules Friday in a speech she was forced to make outside of the ring unlike her male counterparts, as controversy over the sport's divisive tradition deepened.

Tokorozuka City Mayor Tomoko Nakagawa said she is frustrated and pained by the sexist tradition in sumo. In the sport, the ring is considered sacred and women are prohibited from entering because they are seen as "unclean."

"I am not allowed to go up to the ring and greet to you, just because I am a woman, and I feel mortified," Nakagawa said, as she received applause from the crowd. "It's painful."

The Japan Sumo Association's adherence to their rule caused outrage last week when they ordered female first responders to leave the ring as they attempted to revive an official who collapsed at another event in northern Kyoto.

Footage of the incident and photos on social media have triggered an uproar, with many criticizing sumo officials and saying they were choosing tradition over life. Sumo officials apologized over the incident Wednesday, saying the announcement was inappropriate in the life-threatening situation.

Nakagawa said that's not enough.

"Tradition is important, but it is also important to have courage and make a change," she said. "I don't care whichever side of the ring we stand, but I do want both men and women to be treated equally."

Sumo officials cited their male-only tradition when they rejected Nakagawa's request to speak on the ring. They asked her to respect the tradition.

Cops: 6 detained in plot to attack Berlin crowd

BERLIN — Six people were detained in connection with what police and prosecutors allege was a plan to carry out an extremist attack on Berlin's half-marathon Sunday, German authorities said.

Berlin police tweeted that six people were detained in cooperation with the city's prosecutor's office.

The German daily Die Welt first reported that police pulled a plot to attack race spectators and participants with knives.

Die Welt reported that the main suspect, who was not identified, had prepared two knives to use in the attack.

From The Associated Press

Pakistan protests crash involving US diplomat

BY MUNIR AJMED
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan summoned the American ambassador on Sunday to lodge a formal protest after a road crash involving a U.S. Embassy vehicle killed a Pakistani motorcyclist.

Ambassador David Hale was told that another man riding on the motorcycle was wounded in Saturday's accident, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It said "justice will take its course" in accordance with local and international laws.

Pakistani TV stations have aired footage showing a white vehicle running a red light and striking a motorcyclist, who can be seen flying through the air. The family of the motorcyclist, identified by police as Ateeq Baig, 22, has lodged charges against the U.S. diplomat, saying he ran a red light.



Pakistani journalists examine the car of an American diplomat parked inside a police station after an accident in Islamabad on Saturday that killed a Pakistani motorcyclist.

Pakistani police briefly detained the diplomat, but did not arrest him as he enjoys diplomatic immunity.

On Sunday, police said they are

examining footage of the accident from a surveillance camera.

Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal said the diplomat violated traffic laws and that a case has been reg-

istered, without providing further details.

The U.S. Embassy issued a statement expressing sympathy for the family of the motorcyclist and for those injured in what it said was a "tragic traffic accident involving a U.S. Embassy vehicle."

"Embassy officials are cooperating with local authorities who are investigating the accident," it said.

Police have identified the U.S. diplomat as Col. Joseph Emanuel Hall, a defense attaché, saying he was alone in the car at the time of the crash. Police impounded the embassy car as part of the investigation.

In February 2011, a contractor employed by the U.S. Consulate shot and killed two Pakistanis in Lahore and struck and killed a bicycle rider as he sped from the scene in his vehicle.

ANJUM NAVEED/AP

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police department adds kitten to its lineup

MI TROY — The Troy Police Department in suburban Detroit added a cat to the ranks Friday after auditioning five felines from the Michigan Humane Society.

The cat will be used for therapeutic purposes and make public appearances. A Troy officer who has two cats at home is getting a new four-legged partner.

Sgt. Meghan Lehman said the department also wants to promote pet adoptions from area shelters. She said Troy students will be asked to come up with possible names for the kitten. A name will be selected through a vote on Twitter.

Roofer faces charges after taking back roof

LA MONROE — A Louisiana roofer faces misdemeanor charges after repossessing a roof because he hadn't been paid.

Authorities arrested Andrew Jackson Higdon III, 66, of West Monroe, last week on charges of simple criminal damage to property and criminal trespass.

The arrest warrant said Ouachita Parish deputies responded Dec. 29, 2016, to a property damage complaint. The victim said Higdon verbally agreed to replace her roof in June and wait for payment until her insurance issued a check.

The victim said Higdon started asking for payment around mid-December. She said she could partially pay, but he wanted the full amount. She said he told her if she didn't pay, he would take the roof.

Moose stomps on man's foot after he kicked her

AK ANCHORAGE — State officials said a man was injured north of Anchorage after a moose that he had just kicked stomped his foot in return.

KTVU-TV reported the moose injured the man Thursday morning. State Department of Fish and Game spokesman Ken Marsh said the man escaped major injuries.

Marsh said the cow and a calf were on a trail, and the "gun was trying to go through them" when he kicked the mother.

Alaska Troopers spokeswoman Megan Peters advised others "not to go around kicking moose."

Man sues after 'pocket dial' cost him his job

GA ATLANTA — A man who lost his job is suing his former boss for listening in on a conversation over the phone after the man accidentally "pocket-dialed" his boss.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported James Stephens was talking to his wife in 2016 about his boss, Georgia Subsequent Injury Trust Fund Director Mike Coan.

At the time, Stephens didn't realize that he had pocket-dialed Coan, who could hear the conversation. Not liking what he had heard, Coan told Stephens he could resign or be fired.

THE CENSUS

60

The number of years it took for an Indiana woman to receive a postcard. Sharon Gongwer's mother sent her to postcard from Southern California dated Aug. 26, 1958. Christine Combs, the manager of the Quality Inn & Suites in Coshen, Ind., had found the postcard tucked away in a drawer while cleaning out cabinets. Combs hand-delivered the memento to its owner last week. The postcard's message described Gongwer's mother's adventures during her time in Southern California. The front showed a photo of palm trees lining a neighborhood street. Neither Combs nor Gongwer knew how the postcard ended up at the hotel.



NICK TOMCEK, NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS/AP

Fishy layover

Annie and J.D. Cameron look at marine life in a saltwater aquarium that is part of a new welcome center at the Destin Fort Walton Beach Airport in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., on Thursday. The aquarium showcases some of the fish typically found in the nearby Gulf of Mexico.

Stephens has filed a lawsuit, arguing Coan knew he'd been inadvertently pocket-dialed but continued to listen to the conversation, violating Stephens' privacy.

Exonerated ex-inmate becomes auxiliary cop

OH MAPLE HEIGHTS — A man who hoped to become a police officer after being wrongly imprisoned for 13 years has been sworn in as an auxiliary officer in Ohio.

Cleveland.com reported Michael Green completed peace officer basic training last year at age 52 and was sworn in last week in Maple Heights as an auxiliary officer. That type of officer helps with traffic control, special events and community activities.

Green was imprisoned for a rape and was exonerated through DNA evidence after he was released in 2001. The actual attacker turned himself in after reading reporting about Green's post-prison life.

Nooses found on MLK death date at schools

MD PASADENA — Nooses were found at two Maryland high schools on the 50th anniversary of the assassi-

nation of Martin Luther King Jr.

The Capital reported that Gov. Larry Hogan cited one of those incidents in a tweet Thursday, condemning the actions of a Chesapeake High School student who brought a noose and Confederate flag to school Wednesday. Hogan tweeted that "kind of garbage has no place in Maryland."

The noose and flag follow a recent series of racial slurs and threats made at the school.

On Maryland's Eastern Shore, Worcester County Public Schools' Carrie Stiers told The Daily Times a noose was found in the boys bathroom at Stephen Decatur High School.

Sticky-note robbery fails; man goes to bar

SC NORTH MYRTLE BEACH — A masked man armed with a sticky note who was unsuccessful in his attempt to rob a South Carolina gas station then left for the bar next door.

The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reported a man wearing a black ski mask brandished a sticky note reading "I need all the money in register" when he tried to rob Turtle Market in North Myrtle Beach on Wednesday.

Police said an employee told them that she didn't turn over any

money. Police said the man then walked to 39th Avenue Bar and Grill next door. Witnesses said he left the bar on a blue moped.

Volunteers dig into Santa letters backlog

AK NORTH POLE — Keeping the Christmas spirit alive, on the day before Easter, two dozen volunteer "elves" worked to finish Santa Claus' 2017 correspondence.

In responding to children's drawings and toy wish lists, volunteers sent them back a form letter from Santa, apologizing for not responding sooner.

The volunteer elves were working their way through what volunteer Sharon Beeman estimated was more than 11,000 leftover 2017 letters, neatly stacked in U.S. Postal Service boxes.

West Valley High School students will help with the remainder of the letters as a community service project, Beeman said.

Man drops gun during town hall meeting

WA BREMERTON — Authorities said a man found a handgun on the floor at a town hall forum hosted by Rep. Derek Kilmer at Olympic College.

Bremerton Police Department Capt. Tom Wolfe said the owner of the gun left the building before he could be identified.

Olympic College spokesman Shawn Devine said that as the forum ended, someone in the audience noticed a gun on the floor in the second row.

Police reports said Kilmer's spokesman Timothy Biba moved to secure the weapon when an elderly male approached. The man sheepishly said it was his gun, picked it up, tucked it in his hat and left the building.

Truck driver unhurt as he falls into sinkhole

MO SPRINGFIELD — The driver of a trash truck was unhurt after the vehicle fell into a deep sinkhole in Springfield.

Authorities responded to a call earlier this month and found the truck in a 10-foot-deep sinkhole at an apartment complex in eastern Springfield.

The cause of the sinkhole wasn't immediately clear but Springfield and much of Missouri had seen significant precipitation.

Authorities said the owner of the apartment complex will decide what to do about the hole.

From wire reports

FACES



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Actor, director and writer John Krasinski, left, Noah Jupe, Millicent Simmonds and Krasinski's wife Emily Blunt attend the premiere of their movie "A Quiet Place" in New York on April 2. Blunt says she was bullied in school for her stutter.

Emily Blunt opens up about stuttering

BY TRAVIS M. ANDREWS
The Washington Post

Emily Blunt's new movie "The Quiet Place" is about a family who tries to live silently, lest terrible things befall them. She won't be speaking much—which is a tad unusual for the British actress. More often, her roles display flawless vocal abilities, via her American accents ("The Girl on the Train," "Sicario") and singing ("Into the Woods," upcoming "Mary Poppins").

So it's difficult to believe that Blunt spent her childhood bullied for a nearly debilitating stutter. But that might be what helped launch her acting career.

On the cusp of her teenage years, Blunt was relentlessly mocked by her classmates. As a defense mechanism, she recently told People's Jess Cagle, she essentially hid herself in characters.

"I used to do a lot of funny voices and funny accents because I could speak more fluently if I didn't sound like me," Blunt said.

Her parents enrolled her in various therapies and relaxation classes, but nothing took—until she began acting.

I used to do a lot of funny voices and funny accents because I could speak more fluently if I didn't sound like me."

A "fantastic teacher" overheard Blunt's impressions on a school play despite her stutter, a suggestion she greeted with vigorous objections.

"This is kind of remarkable for someone who's not a stutterer, that he had this instinct. It was so special," Blunt recalled.

Blunt, bitten by the acting bug, eventually conquered her stutter, but it will never disappear completely.

"It still comes back and flares if I'm really tired, or when I was pregnant, it was really prominent again," Blunt said.

A stutter might seem to many like a minor affliction, but it can be anything but. For example: Annie Glenn, the wife of astronaut and former senator John Glenn, stuttered so badly that when her 7-year-

old daughter stepped on a nail, she couldn't speak well enough to call an ambulance. She had to fetch a neighbor, as blood gushed out of her daughter's foot.

Others have trouble finding work.

"It's a real problem for a lot of people. It's not just kids. You have adults in the 40s and 50s who haven't been able to get the jobs that they deserve, because you're sort of misrepresented by how you speak," Blunt said.

Stuttering is a surprisingly common affliction in Hollywood—a place generally unkind to those living with disabilities—despite a main tenet of acting being flawless line-reading and enunciation. Several big-name actors managed to enjoy a lucrative career regardless, including James Earl Jones, Marilyn Monroe, Bruce Willis and Samuel L. Jackson.

Ruffalo: Hulk role shows faces of anger

Avengers star Mark Ruffalo said April 5 that his dual roles as Dr. Bruce Banner and the Hulk in the upcoming "Avengers: Infinity War" cleverly reflects the duality of anger.

"Our anger can open us to outrage, or anger can open us to do great things for people. Anger can be a positive motivating force," he told reporters April 5 while in Mexico City to promote the movie, which is set to open April 27.

In the film, Hulk joins with Iron Man, The Black Widow, Thor and Black Panther to fight the villain Thanos.

"Marvel is very clever to realize that the Hulk force can be used for positive but also for destructive (ends). It can get out of control," said Ruffalo, who had the lead role in the Academy Award-winning film "Spotlight."

Ruffalo, who is known for supporting social justice causes, added, "Anger just by itself isn't always the best way to approach something, but it is a powerful emotion when you couple it with outrage or an injustice. It is very powerful."

"It really taps into a deep site in our psyche that we relate to the Hulk and Banner so much because all of us have lost control over anger," he said.

Other news

■ "Solo: A Star Wars Story" will premiere at the Cannes Film Festival. The French festival announced April 6 that the Star Wars spinoff will premiere out of competition at this year's festival before opening in French theaters May 23. "Solo" opens in U.S. theaters May 25.

■ Actress Jaime King says her son is badly shaken but safe after a man jumped on a parked car the 4-year-old was sitting in and shattered glass that hit him. King released a statement April 5 thanking Beverly Hills, Calif., police, her friend who tried to fend off the attacker and bystanders who helped. Police say 47-year-old Paul Floyd was arrested on suspicion of battery and child endangerment after climbing on the rear windshield above where 4-year-old James Knight was sitting, kicking and jumping as the glass broke.

The Massachusetts teenager who became a social media sensation after taking a selfie with Justin Timberlake during the Super Bowl halftime show got another chance to meet the pop star—and took another selfie. Thirteen-year-old Ryan McKenna took an impromptu picture with Timberlake as the singer walked through the crowd while performing at the big game. McKenna posted a new selfie with Timberlake on Instagram after reuniting with him at a concert in Boston on April 4.

■ Lin-Manuel Miranda thought he had a migraine. It turns out the Broadway star really had shingles. Miranda tweeted April 5 that he had been diagnosed with shingles, saying he it caught early and that he had been quarantined from his 8-week-old son.

From The Associated Press

Pegg claims Abrams had a different plan for Rey's lineage in Star Wars

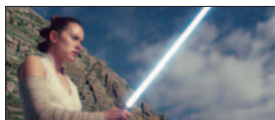
BY KATE FELDMAN
New York Daily News

Maybe Rey's ancestral tree was supposed to be important after all.

Actor Simon Pegg reignited suspicion of the Star Wars heroine's bloodline with speculation about "Force Awakens" director J.J. Abrams's original plan.

"I know what J.J. kind of intended or at least was being chucked around," Pegg, who played Unkar Plutt in "The Force Awakens," said on the Happy Sad Confused podcast.

"I think that's kind of been undone slightly by the last one. There was some talk of a relevant lineage for her."



LUCASFILM/AP

The speculation over Rey's (Daisy Ridley) lineage in Star Wars continues.

Rey's mysterious lineage became a conspiracy for fans, many of whom guessed that she could be the secret offspring of Luke Skywalker, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Han Solo, Leia Organa or any combination of the group.

Instead, Daisy Ridley's character was just a normal person with an unremarkable heritage. "They were filthy junk traders. Sold you off for drinking money. They're dead in a pauper's grave in the Jakku desert," Kylo Ren said in "The Last Jedi." "You come from nothing. You're nothing. But not to me."

Ren's reveal, however, came from Rian Johnson, who led "The Last Jedi," rather than Abrams. Ridley had a different explanation for her story, telling Rolling Stone last year that Rey's lineage was "what I was told in the beginning."

So, maybe not, after all.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

White House plans changes to civil service system

By Joe Davidson
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has big plans to completely overhaul the civil service system, a Herculean task that would affect 2 million federal employees, from hiring to firing (or a more amicable workplace separation).

In a YouTube video with the newly installed director of the Office of Personnel Management, Jeff T.H. Pon, and Deputy Director Michael Rigas, Pon said President Donald Trump “had been vested in as a mandate to change certain things across our government. It’s nice to have a president that actually will go up to bat for civil service reform, for changing the way ... of recruiting people, rewarding people, managing people.”

“Mandate” is a dubious word for a man who lost the popular vote, yet civil service reform has many champions — and some key doubters.

“But, somehow in the last several decades, we’ve been doing it piecemeal,” Pon continued. “We’d like to do a lot of different changes not at the piecemeal level but as a whole, and we will come up with different types of personnel systems for occupations. There are a lot of occupations out there that desperately need a whole entire system to surround their success. It’s not just about time to hire. It’s not just about how much they get paid. It’s the whole entire thing.”

Despite decades of reports advocating civil service reform, there has been no concerted effort in recent years to accomplish that. The piecemeal efforts have focused largely on hiring and finding ways to fire less faster and cut their compensation. Undermining civil service protections of the Department of

‘There’s strong consensus on the need for reform, but there’s no consensus at all on what reform ought to look like. Everyone is afraid that, if the door is ever opened, things that they opposed will creep through.’

Donald F. Kettl

professor of public policy at the University of Maryland

Veterans Affairs, employees has been a favorite target of punitive legislators reacting to the scandal over the coverup of long patient wait times that broke in 2014.

“This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Civil Service Reform Act, the last comprehensive overhaul of the civil service system,” said Max Stier, president and chief executive of the Partnership for Public Service, one of the good government groups that has produced reports calling for an overhaul. “Forty years is a long time, so it is exciting that the administration is thinking boldly about modernizing the system.”

Pon’s quest likely will be opposed by federal labor organizations and many of their Democratic allies in Congress. Labor leaders strongly defend the General Schedule pay system for its fairness and argue that existing workplace disciplinary and corrective procedures would work better if managers were better trained.

With Trump’s record on federal employees — his plans to freeze pay, reduce benefits, facilitate firings and undermine unions — expect any administration effort to meet stiff resistance.

“President Trump has shown contempt for public servants from his first day in office, when he

prohibited federal agencies from filling vacant positions,” said Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., the ranking member on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that would oversee civil service reform.

“Rather than draining the swamp, he has been feeding the public servants to the alligators. We need to protect the independence and professionalism of the federal employees. The cornerstone of an independent, nonpartisan civil service is the due-process protections in current law, and those are exactly what President Trump wants to eliminate under the guise of ‘reform.’”

Pon and committee Chairman Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., did not respond to requests for comment.

Federal unions are willing to discuss civil service reform, but probably not what Trump’s folks have in mind.

J. David Cox Sr., president of the American Federation of Government Employees, said, “We are open to reform that strengthens the apolitical, professional civil service and expands the ability of federal employees to protect the integrity of their work and to defend their jobs from rapacious contractors. We are also eager to work with Congress and the administration to bring fed-

eral salaries up to comparability with the standards set by large private employers.”

But if it means “cutting pay, pensions, and health insurance benefits, undermining collective bargaining, union representation and due process rights and outsourcing government work to political cronies,” Cox said, “then the answer is no, and we will strongly urge Congress to block this agenda.”

As Tony Reardon, president of the National Treasury Employees Union said, union leaders “do not believe the civil service system needs a major overhaul. The existing General Schedule is already a pay-for-performance system with the ability to reward good employees or remove poor performers. Just like in the private sector, rewarding employees for exceptional work is a key part of recruiting and retaining highly skilled professionals. Employees can also be removed for poor performance, but it requires managers be trained in how to do it properly and for the right reasons.”

“Many of these performance measures are not used as often or as effectively as they could be because managers lack the necessary training or because elected officials interfere with or refuse to adequately fund the federal personnel system.”

The road to change is choked with opposing needs and expectations.

“There’s strong consensus on the need for reform, but there’s no consensus at all on what reform ought to look like,” said Donald F. Kettl, professor of public policy at the University of Maryland. “Everyone is afraid that, if the door is ever opened, things that they opposed will creep through.”

If Pon, who provided no specifics, wants something to reform,

perhaps he should look within.

“First issue is OPM itself,” said Paul C. Light, a New York University professor of public service. “Pon sits atop one of the most important yet least respected agencies in government. Its reputation could not be poorer.”

Light is not optimistic that Pon’s attempt to reform the civil service will be successful.

“Don’t hold your breath waiting for a grand vision here,” he said. “This isn’t the crew to do it, and Congress doesn’t have the temperament for the long slog.”

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro cents (April 9)	\$1.2596
Dollar buys (April 9)	49.7939
British pound (April 9)	\$1.44
Japanese yen (April 9)	104.00
South Korean won (April 9)	1,037.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.4074/0.7105
Canada (Dollar)	0.72737
China (Yuan)	6.3054
Denmark (Krone)	6.0702
Egypt (Pound)	17.6850
Euro	\$1.2269/0.8151
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8484
Hungary (Forint)	254.45
Israel (Shekel)	3.5307
Japan (Yen)	107.23
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3001
Norway (Krone)	7.8098
Philippines (Peso)	52.93
Poland (Zloty)	3.42
Saudi (Riyal)	3.7599
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3168
South Korea (Won)	1,067.29
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9600
Thailand (Baht)	31.26
Turkey (Lira)	0.0345
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federals funds market rate	1.69
3-month bill	1.74
30-year bond	3.08

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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OPINION

Nassar wasn't the only abuser of Olympians

By KAYLA HARRISON
AND AUGUST L. WOLF
Special To The Washington Post

The strong, dedicated girls and young women of the U.S. gymnastics team who survived the assaults of their team doctor also were victims of a second kind of abuse — the negligence of the U.S. Olympic Committee. The health and safety of the athletes should have been paramount, and instead they were sacrificed to the higher priorities of reducing legal liability and protecting the USOC's image and fundraising.

The case of Larry Nassar, the doctor now effectively serving a life sentence for sexual assault amid allegations from more than 100 female gymnasts he treated, is but the most egregious instance of the USOC's disregard for Olympic athletes. Dysfunction, neglect and out-of-whack priorities have reigned for years at the USOC, which has been blinded by huge TV contracts and sponsor fees and lulled by a lack of accountability and external oversight.

The people who allowed these conditions to fester have failed to fix it; it is time to clean house. The resignation of USOC chief executive Scott Blackmun, who learned of the allegations in 2015 and did nothing, is a first step to overhauling this insular organization. Now its boss, USOC Chairman Larry Probst, should join him. To clear the way for new leaders, senior executives and board members should offer their resignations in massé.

Congress created and sanctioned the USOC as a de facto monopoly with the sole right to represent America's Olympic athletes — and it is Congress that must get involved in reforming it. We say this as Team USA Olympians. Kayla Harrison won gold medals in judo at the 2012 and 2016 Summer Games. She founded the Fearless

Foundation to support athletes who have been sexually abused. August Wolf competed in the shot put at the 1984 Summer Games and is the founder of U.S. Athletic Trust. Also, we are gathering petition signatures in support of fixing the USOC at OlympiansIsing.org.

The USOC and some of the 47 national governing bodies for individual sports have known of allegations of sexual abuse for decades. Since 1982, almost 300 coaches and officials in Olympic organizations, across 15 sports, have been publicly accused of sexual misconduct. As of 2010, USA Swimming banned 36 coaches for molesting minors on their teams and kept the list secret, releasing it later only after coming under criticism. In the past 20 years, at least 368 gymnasts have alleged sexual exploitation. The Indianapolis Star reported in 2016.

The response to these horrors has been lackadaisical and circle-the-wagons. According to the Committee to Restore Integrity to the USOC, USA Swimming in 2010 and 2011 declined to pass a policy prohibiting coaches from having sexual relationships with their athletes, despite myriad accusations. The USOC adopted a ban in 2012, warning the national governing bodies that if they failed to comply they would lose funding (albeit for their athletes). Although three athletes filed a police report against a USA Taekwondo coach in 2013, he was allowed to continue coaching until 2015, right up until his criminal conviction.

When athletes complain to officials, the USOC and some governing bodies have been known to hire lawyers to mount a defense against them. In 2008, a female Olympic swimmer learned that her coach, a few years earlier, surreptitiously had videotaped her and other underage swim-

mers in their locker room; the executive director of USA Swimming knew this and let the man continue coaching. She filed a complaint, and USA Swimming hired a law firm ... to defend itself.

Likewise, in 2012 more than a dozen members of U.S. Speedskating told the USOC of physical and emotional abuse by their coaches. Instead of intervening, the USOC recommended a law firm to U.S. Speedskating, which retained it for an internal probe; it bought out the coaches' contracts and never released the findings.

The USOC first convened a special panel on sexual abuse in 2010, got nowhere and in 2012 started working on the SafeSport initiative. This group opened only recently and received nine complaints of misconduct within about a week of its launch. Critics including Olympic gold-medal swimmer Nancy Hogshead-Makar, of the Committee to Restore Integrity to the USOC, say SafeSport lacks independence, investigative powers and enforcement authority. It must be strengthened.

Our USOC needs a makeover, and this is an issue both parties can support. We urge the House Judiciary and the Senate Committee to form a "joint commission" that includes athletes, Olympic officials, members of Congress and outside advocates. Conduct public hearings into how the USOC quashed allegations and failed to protect athletes, and give the new SafeSport program more investigative clout.

Team USA is a national treasure. Every two years we get to enjoy the best of human ambition, triumph and hard work. It is only right that we ensure our Olympians are safe and sound, and heard and supported.

Kayla Harrison and August L. Wolf are former Olympic athletes. This article was adapted from a letter they sent to the USOC committee, which was co-signed by Olympic medalists Caroline Lind, Bode Miller and Jimmy Pedro.

Census is not about citizenship. Don't risk its data.

By PENNY PRITZER
AND CARLOS GUTIERREZ
Bloomberg View

As former secretaries of commerce, with direct oversight of the U.S. Census Bureau, we have grave concerns about the proposed addition of a citizenship question to the decennial census in 2020. If included, this question will put in jeopardy the accuracy of the data that the census collects, and increase costs.

The census should not be a partisan issue. Mandated under the U.S. Constitution, the census requires the actual enumeration of all people in the United States, not simply all citizens. In fact, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld this system of counting everyone in 2016.

For nearly 70 years, the questionnaire that has gone to all households has not included a citizenship question. And circumstances have not changed to justify the inclusion of this untested question now.

Having served as presidents from both major U.S. political parties, we were extremely proud of our Census Bureau. It has a worldwide reputation as a premier statistics and data-gathering agency. There is no better source for understanding the fabric of America and all of its intricacies than through the census and the exceptional work done by the career civil servants there.

The addition of an untested citizenship question, however, puts that reputation in jeopardy. There is typically a multiyear process for suggesting and testing new questions. Questions should be added only after the Census Bureau has adequately tested the potential effect of the question

on response and accuracy rates.

It is the responsibility and burden of the Commerce Department to demonstrate that changes to existing questions and the addition of new ones will not create harm and that it would increase completeness and accuracy. The lack of data on either the potential harm or potential increase in accuracy — especially when caused by lack of testing — is all the more reason to resist adding existing questions at this late date.

Moreover, there is a clear cost to including this untested question. Millions of dollars have already been spent testing the current form and the questions that are set to be used. These dollars will be wasted because that form would now be obsolete. In addition, if residents fail to respond to the census, the bureau is required to make its best efforts to obtain an actual enumeration by collecting data from those nonresponding households.

For each percentage point of nonresponsiveness, the bureau is expected to spend an additional \$55 million in an effort to recover that missing data. Although Secretary Wilbur Ross suggests that the cost might be lowered by using technology, such methods are untested and themselves may lead to unpredictable results — including increasing that cost.

The results of the census have far-ranging consequences. Not only is it used to determine the number of congressional seats allocated to each state, within each state the data are used to draw district and local electoral maps. Without accurate census data, jurisdictions will not be represented properly.

Just as important is the role that census data play in business decisions. American

businesses, both small and large, depend on the demographic and economic information gathered to help determine where their customers are based, what workforce is available and other factors that affect critical investment decisions. Without accurate data, those businesses cannot make sound and reliable decisions about hiring, marketing and locations.

Finally, the distribution of more than \$600 billion in federal funding for local communities is based on census data. Discrepancies in the data could affect relief, health services, development grants, among many other things — could be misallocated or wasted if the census data are inaccurate.

Six past census directors — from both parties — recently expressed deep concerns about adding a citizenship question to the 2020 survey. We have worked with several of them. They are professionals and experts in managing large statistical agencies. We do not believe that their judgment should be substituted without empirical evidence. The current leadership of the Census Bureau also urged the commerce secretary to reject the addition of the citizenship question.

We do not take lightly our decision to disagree with Ross and to request that he reconsider his decision. But the stakes are simply too high. If necessary, we urge Congress to act and protect the integrity and accuracy of the U.S. census.

Penny Pritzer served as U.S. commerce secretary from 2013 to 2017. She is the founder and chairman of the investment firm PSP Partners. Carlos Gutierrez was U.S. commerce secretary from 2005 to 2009. He was chief executive officer of Kellogg Co. and is currently chairman of global advisory firm Albright Stonebridge Group.

OPINION

Bumps on Democrats' road to midterm glory

BY ALBERT R. HUNT
Bloomberg View

Democrats, confident about their prospects for winning control of the House of Representatives in November, are warily eyeing a few speed bumps that could deliver some unexpected jolts.

In Connecticut, incumbent Democrat Elizabeth Esty said last week that she wouldn't run for re-election after acknowledging that she was too slow to fire a top aide who had assaulted a female staffer. Her retirement turns a safe Democratic House seat into a potentially competitive one.

In California, Democrats face the possibility that several seats could be lost due to a peculiar combination of their own enthusiasm and the state's unusual nonpartisan primary system. That's because the two top finishers in all of California's June 5 primaries will qualify for the general election, irrespective of party. Democrats worry that an abundance of candidates could split their voters and enable two Republicans to slip into the final round.

A lot depends on whether the election results ride on a modest national tide or a

giant wave. If a flood of Democratic voters animated by hostility to President Donald Trump turns the midterm contest into a wave election comparable to those of 2006, when Democrats took both houses of Congress, or 2010, when Republicans did the same, Democrats are likely to pick up 40 House seats or more. That's well above the two dozen they need for control. But if it's a normal tide for an off-year election, the gains are likely to be more in the 15-to-25 range.

The wave appeared more likely to crash last week after a Democrat decisively won a Wisconsin State Supreme Court election in a race that attracted attention and resources from national politicians and interest groups. That result followed big Democratic victories in the past year in Virginia, New Jersey, Alabama, Florida, Pennsylvania and elsewhere in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican, warned Wednesday that there's "a risk of a blue wave in Wisconsin." If he's right, a national wave of energized Democratic voters would probably swamp challenges to the party's prospects posed by local problems like Esty's retirement. But there's no guarantee that such a wave will materialize, which keeps party strategists

awake at night.

Esty, a three-term lawmaker, initially insisted that she would not resign after the reports surfaced about her mishandling of the abuse case. Under pressure from Democrats in Connecticut and Washington she relented last week. Her district has been represented by a Democrat for 12 years, but it's not a Democratic lock; Hillary Clinton carried it over Trump with just 52 percent of the vote, and before 2006 much of it was held for decades by a Republican.

Democrats also suffered a possible setback last week in a southwestern Iowa district they have targeted, when the strong contender didn't qualify for the June 5 primary ballot.

The biggest Democratic challenge involves California, where the party thinks it can win House races in as many as seven Republican-held districts, most of which Clinton carried in 2016.

But the state's nonpartisan primary system complicates those prospects. In the Southern California district held by retiring Republican Rep. Darrell Issa, Democratic aspirants include the man who almost defeated him last time, another candidate who was an early front-runner and two wealthy hopefuls with little ex-

perience but lots of money to spend in an expensive media market.

There are more Republican candidates, but they include local elected officials with track records of attracting voters. It's not much of a surprise that two Republican finalists with only a combined third of the vote.

There's a similar worry in the Orange County district of incumbent Republican Dana Rohrabacher, who is so controversial that he's being challenged by a former chair of his own county party and a Republican state legislator. Democrats say they have a couple of candidates who could defeat Rohrabacher in a one-on-one contest, but are less confident about the mathematics of a multi-candidate race.

Democrats recently helped their cause in another potentially problematic Orange County district. There, a couple of Democratic candidates dropped out under party pressure and there now seems to be a clearer path for a top Democrat to make the runoff for a seat now held by retiring Republican Rep. Ed Royce.

Albert R. Hunt is a Bloomberg View columnist. He was the executive editor of Bloomberg News, which he left to become a reporter, bureau chief and executive Washington editor at The Wall Street Journal.

Despite start-up challenges, MHS Genesis gains fans

BY TOM PHILPOTT
Special to Stars and Stripes

Naval Lt. Lauren Alderson, a family medicine physician at Naval Health Clinic Oak Harbor, Wash., much prefers the Defense Health Agency's new electronic health record system MHS Genesis in its testing stage, over the legacy AHLTA system it has replaced so far at four military medical facilities in Washington state.

MHS Genesis still has capabilities added, software kinks eliminated and design changes made to achieve optimal workflows for every medical specialty. But it will improve staff efficiency over time and has improved patient care, she said.

"For me, charting is much quicker. The open documentation in the patient portal is a huge benefit for patients to see, as part of their health care record and their health care in general. We can see lab [results] easier. We can communicate with each other and our nurses a lot easier. I can leave at the end of the day with no records or charts, where Genesis I've got to be at during encounters with patients. And that was huge for me," Alderson said.

Admittedly Alderson might be more comfortable with MHS Genesis than some other providers testing the new system. In the past year, she has attended two conferences where Genesis has been a very beautiful electronic health record. We just need to get it stabilized and working for us at the basic level, and then those other steps will come along."

"All this makes AHLTA look so antiquated, with how slow it is and how little you can do with it," Alderson said. Genesis "really will allow us to go into a very beautiful electronic health record. We just need to get it stabilized and working for us at the basic level, and then those other steps will come along."

I asked to interview a care provider who has used Genesis for months after hearing conflicting reports of how satisfied staff are with the new system at IOC, or initial operational capability sites, in the Pacific Northwest.

In January Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, visited the first MHS Genesis test site, the hospital on Fairchild Air Force

MILITARY UPDATE

Base, Wash., and said the Department of Veterans Affairs might have made a mistake choosing to piggyback onto Genesis to replace its own legacy system.

Roe told the state's nonpartisan primary system complicates those prospects. In the Southern California district held by retiring Republican Rep. Darrell Issa, Democratic aspirants include the man who almost defeated him last time, another candidate who was an early front-runner and two wealthy hopefuls with little ex-

perience but lots of money to spend in an expensive media market. There are more Republican candidates, but they include local elected officials with track records of attracting voters. It's not much of a surprise that two Republican finalists with only a combined third of the vote.

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The biggest challenge for care providers, said Col. Michael L. Place, commander of Madigan Army Medical Center, or Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., another IOC site for MHS Genesis, is learning how to use the new system optimally.

"Every clinic, every specialty, does things a little bit differently, so they have to explore how to make that work for them. Everything has to be since we recovered to compiling data, and learning from the system to make ourselves more efficient and improve performance — it's really a learning cycle they have to go through iteratively," Place explained during a recent press conference that the Military Health System hosted to discuss the latest developments with MHS Genesis.

Available by phone were executives responsible for implementing the \$4.3 billion, 10-year contract to modernize the military's health care management system. Deployment is led by Leidos Inc., which is combining the popular commercial record systems of Corner Millennium for medical and Dentrix Enterprise for dental care.

When MHS Genesis went live at Madigan last year, Place said, primary care providers could treat only 60 percent of their usual number of patients given the time involved in re-creating family and medical histories. "We've since recovered to 88 percent of previous patient loads and "we

set criteria to make sure we safely go up to 100 percent," he said.

It is true, Alderson said, that a minimum amount of patient data in AHLTA is formatted in a way to transfer to Genesis. Consequently, patients seen for the first time after Genesis went live were advised to arrive at Oak Harbor 20 minutes early so medical assistants could input family and personal histories into the new system.

It irritated some patients, she conceded. Comments were heard "like, 'I've been a patient in the system for 20-plus years. Why do you not have that all in there?' And we understand the frustration. But it actually is creating much cleaner documentation for us."

Alderson said the goal is not necessarily to see more patients in a day with Genesis. Primary care physicians, she said, still want 15 to 20 minutes with each patient even if charting time is reduced from, say, four minutes to two.

"But what I think the system allows, and we have to test it fully, is the virtual health option," she said, having patient encounters online without them being physically present. "This system may allow us to do that so we can add on like six virtual patients to our day. We haven't started yet but we have the potential."

Currently physicians will review patient responses to questions used to re-create medical histories in Genesis before they enter examining rooms, and occasionally they will notice that medical histories aren't captured in full.

"And, actually, I see your blood pressure is high but they didn't say that you have hypertension. Am I missing something," Alderson said.

The goal ultimately is to do charting in exam rooms, with providers asking "patients face to face and be charting in live time. And, actually, I see some providers are doing that. But usually the corpsman or medical assistant will ask social or medical history and [physicians] will confirm if those are accurate, and make sure we're not missing anything, especially when we go to diagnose someone."

Importantly, embedded in Genesis, is a link to the Joint Legacy Viewer, a tool familiar to health care providers in the De-

partment of Veterans Affairs. They have used JLV for years as a platform on which patient information from AHLTA can be loaded and reviewed without logging into AHLTA.

So, while Alderson hasn't used AHLTA since last July, she said she has used the JLV from time to time to view a patient's "past labs, past treatments or medications if the patient isn't sure what they were on."

JLV can be harder to use than AHLTA, she said, and sometimes physicians "find something in AHLTA that they can't find in the JLV. I think that's the biggest issue. If it's easy to find a diabetic lab in AHLTA and you're struggling to find it in JLV, I can see where that would be a potential problem or frustrating."

Alderson said developers are working to make the JLV more user-friendly and to make sure physicians using MHS Genesis know how to use the JLV.

"I never even knew how to use JLV correctly, so that might be a big part of why people are getting frustrated with it," she said.

Genesis is "provider-centric," Alderson said. Nurses or other nonphysicians, for patient safety, must do more screen clicks than they did under AHLTA to access data. And some specialists including dentists and pharmacists are making a huge leap from paper charting to their first experience with electronic records, she said.

Genesis "is still in its infancy," she added. "There is still stuff to work out, to modify, and they're focusing on that. It's not perfect and we knew it wouldn't be. But for patient safety, this is the way to go."

Alderson predicts that providers trained on the new system won't look back fondly at the old. And yet some will have to return there because Genesis won't be deployed across all of military health care before 2022.

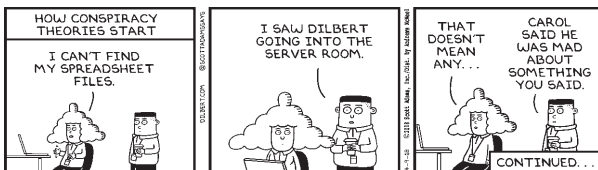
"I don't look forward to going back to AHLTA," said Alderson. If and when assigned to a hospital that still uses AHLTA, she quipped, "I'll be pulling out my hair. It will be slow and cumbersome. Oh, it will be awful."

Sent comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120; email milupdate@aol.com; Twitter: @Military_Update.

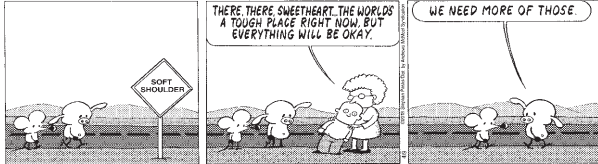
Frazz



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Pearls Before Swine



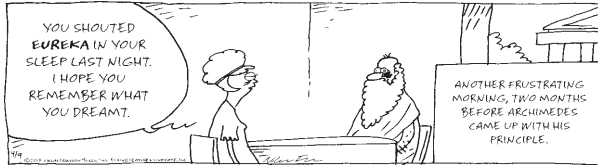
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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54						55				56		
57						58				59		

ACROSS

- Actor Gibson
- Wimbledon surface
- Corn throwaway
- In the past
- Argue against
- Lab eggs
- Academic seminars
- Trail the pack
- de Cologne
- "The Hobbit" baddies
- Spur on
- Sicilian spouter
- Dove's call
- Compass dir.
- Old photo tint
- Perry's creator
- Highland hat
- Admin. aide
- Leafy lunch
- 38 Tie— -toe
- Old Stately tree
- Egyptian deity
- Greek island
- Most sagacious
- Stiller or Stein
- "— was saying..."
- Fellow worker
- Old Oldsmobile
- Big name in racing

- Web address
- Corral
- Grinch creator
- NBC show since 1975

- Frozen desserts
- Writer Ephron
- Auto crash
- Chow down
- Cruise stop
- \$ dispensers
- Lighten
- Aggies and steels
- Decathlon event
- "Bottoms up!"
- Rock
- tear (raging)
- Get bent out of shape
- "Got it"
- Baton Rouge sch.
- Gloomy guy
- Samovar
- Right angle

DOWN

- Apple computer
- Id counterpart
- Texter's chuckle
- Hulled grains
- Ask for
- Dhabi
- Hotel upgrade
- Kicks off
- Imploded
- Cameo shape
- Satchels
- Island garland
- Draft status

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	A	B		B	O	M	B		P	R	A	M
A	M	O		E	V	E	L		L	A	L	A
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C	O	R	A		A	M	O		N	A	B	
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4-9

CRYPTOQUIP

F N R Z A F W Q S A R V Z J S P
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N I X F J K P X A S W Q S F P Q X P A N S

Z X K H : F N Z Z X H X K Z X .
Saturday's Cryptquip: WHEN THE CHEF TRIED REMOVING A CERTAIN GRITTY PART OF THE SHRIMP, IT WAS A DEVEN ATTEMPT.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: C equals D


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Automotive 140

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2 Vanguard 8, San Diego Christian 1

the injured Stephen Curry after his promotion from the G League, added 21 points in the Warriors' final

NHL



MICHAEL OWEN BAKER/AP

The New York Rangers fired coach Alain Vigneault on Saturday after missing the playoffs in his fifth season.

Rangers fire coach Vigneault

By STEPHEN WHYNO

Associated Press

The New York Rangers fired coach Alain Vigneault hours after they missed the playoffs for the first time since 2010.

General manager Jeff Gorton announced the firing Saturday night, a full day before the end of the NHL regular season but long after New York's playoff hopes were gone.

The Rangers will begin searching for his replacement immediately.

The Rangers made the playoffs in four of Vigneault's five seasons as coach, including a 2014 trip to the Stanley Cup Final. They went 226-147-37 in the regular season under Vigneault, who is third in regular-season and playoff wins in franchise history.

New York's front office decided in the middle of this season to go young, sell at the trade deadline and begin a rebuilding process in the hopes of becoming a title contender again. Vigneault repeatedly said he believed the Rangers would have made the playoffs if they didn't go in that direction.

"I believe and some other people also believe that we would have gotten in, but a tough decision was made for the long-term future of this organization and you have to respect it," Vigneault said recently.

After a 5-0 loss to the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday afternoon, the veteran coach said he expected to be back next season.

"I think my staff is the right staff for this job," Vigneault said. "This is just my opinion, but I think one of the strongest assets of this organization is its coaching staff. They're experienced, we've been able to do it with veteran players, we've been able to do it with younger players, our development record."

"It's just my opinion, but I think one of the strongest assets of this organization is its coaching staff. They're experienced, we've been able to do it with veteran players, we've been able to do it with younger players, our development record."

Vigneault has coached 16 seasons for the Montreal Canadiens, Vancouver Canucks and Rangers. His team made the playoffs 11 times, and he took Vancouver to the 2011 Cup Final.

Roundup

Bruins keep hopes alive for top seed

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins won, then got the break they needed to remain in contention for the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

David Pastrnak and Tommy Wingels scored 51 seconds apart in the second period and Boston beat Ottawa 5-2 on Saturday night, a win that preserved Bruins' chances for the No. 1 seed with an overtime loss by Tampa Bay.

"It's been a battle all year. It's been a grind, but we're in that position," said Patrick Bergeron, who assisted on Pastrnak's tying goal 8:08 into the second period.

The Bruins host Florida on Sunday night in a game postponed by a winter storm Jan. 4. Boston is one point behind Tampa Bay, which lost in overtime at Carolina, for the top spot in the East and the Atlantic Division.

Danton Heinen also scored for Boston, which added late goals by Noel Acciari and David Backes in the final two minutes to put away the Senators and complete the season sweep.

Anttoni Khudobin stopped 26 shots for the Bruins.

"We have a chance to move into first. That's what we all can ask for — to have a chance," Boston captain Zdeno Chara said. "It's in our hands tomorrow."

Ryan Dzingel scored both goals for Ottawa and Colin White had two assists. Daniel Taylor made 29 saves for the Senators, who finished 28-43-11 one year after reaching the Eastern Conference finals.

The Senators closed out the season with back-to-back games on the road against two of the top teams in the East. After getting shut out 4-0 at Pittsburgh on Friday night, Ottawa didn't concede anything against the Bruins.

"We've got a lot of young guys and some big names missing. It could have been easy yesterday or today to come up with a poor effort or a lack of commitment," Ottawa coach Guy Boucher said. "We were making some mental mistakes and stuff but I think the effort was there from the beginning until the end."

After falling behind 1-0 on Dzingel's goal 12:31 into the game, Boston tied it on Pastrnak's power-play goal 8:08 into the second period. The tie lasted less than a minute before Wingels fired a wrist shot that Taylor got his glove on but couldn't hold and the puck bounced over the goal line at 8:59 of the second.

Heinen made a steal at the Boston blue line and took it the other way, beating Taylor on a wrist shot with 2:59 left in the second.

Dzingel pulled Ottawa to 3-2 at 7:07 of the third with his second goal of the game, but Acciari added an insurance goal for Boston with 1:51 left and David Backes scored on an empty net with 43 seconds left to play.

"I think today we got better as the game went on and we real-



MARK ZALESKI/AP

Predators fans cheer after left wing Filip Forsberg scored his third goal against the Blue Jackets for a hat trick Saturday.

ly started playing our game, our style, our system and it showed on the scoreboard," Bergeron said. "We're in a position where we can win the conference. It's a big feat."

Flyers 5, Rangers 0: Claude Giroux earned his first career hat trick in the regular season and Philadelphia clinched a playoff berth in its final regular-season game.

Giroux finished with 34 goals and 102 points. He extended his career highs in points and goals while becoming the sixth player in franchise history to reach 100 points in a season.

Hurricanes 3, Lightning 2 (OT): Elias Lindholm scored 49 seconds into overtime, and host Carolina prevented Tampa Bay from clinching the top spot in the Eastern Conference.

Justin Williams had a goal and an assist, Jordan Staal scored a deflected goal and Phil Di Giuseppe had two assists for the Hurricanes. They had lost three straight and four of five down the stretch during their ninth straight season without making the playoffs — tied for the third-longest such drought in NHL history.

Maple Leafs 4, Canadiens 2: Frederik Andersen made 31 saves to set a franchise mark with his 38th win of the season to lead Toronto.

Auston Matthews scored his 34th goal and added an assist as

the Maple Leafs finished with a club-record 105 points.

Ducks 3, Coyotes 0: Rickard Rakell had a goal and assist, and Ryan Miller made 31 saves to lead visiting Anaheim.

Rakell added an assist and scored for the 12th time in his last 19 games. He led the playoff-bound Ducks with a career-high 34 goals and 69 points this season.

Panthers 4, Sabres 3: Hours after Florida was eliminated from playoff contention, Vincent Trocheck scored late in the third period to help the host Panthers hold off Buffalo.

The Panthers' slim playoff hopes ended when Philadelphia beat the New York Rangers 5-0 earlier in the day. Florida took out its frustration on the Sabres, going ahead 3-0 in the first period en route to its franchise-record 27th home victory.

Predators 4, Blue Jackets 2: Filip Forsberg scored three goals, and host Nashville finished off the best regular season in franchise history.

The Predators accepted their first Presidents' Trophy before the game from NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly, and captain Roman Josi grabbed the trophy with his left hand before the rest of the team joined him on the ice for photos. Fans then chanted "We want the Cup" for the defending Western Conference champs who

lost the Stanley Cup in six games to Pittsburgh last June.

Islanders 4, Red Wings 3 (OT): John Tavares scored 3:16 into overtime as visiting New York rallied for a win in the season finale.

Tavares, set to be a free agent in the offseason, snapped a wrist shot past Red Wings goalie Jared Coreau on the stick side.

Jets 4, Blackhawks 1: Andrew Copp scored twice and host Winnipeg's Connor Hellebuyck set an NHL record for most wins in a season by an American goalie.

Hellebuyck made 30 saves to pick up his 44th win, surpassing Tom Barrasso's 1992-93 run with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Capitals 5, Devils 3: Alex Ovechkin scored twice to make it an NHL-leading 49 goals as host Washington beat New Jersey.

Serenaded by chants of "We want 50," Ovechkin wrapped up his seventh Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy as the league's top goal-scorer and came one short of his eighth 50-goal season. Ovechkin scored for the third consecutive game and is the oldest player to lead the NHL in goals since Phil Esposito in 1974-75.

Wild 6, Sharks 3: Jason Zucker scored twice in the second period, Eric Staal matched the franchise record for goals in a season and visiting Minnesota denied San Jose home-ice advantage in the first round.

Mikael Granlund scored the tiebreaking goal 28 seconds before Zucker got his first and Jonas Brodin and Matt Cullen also scored for the Wild, who were locked into the third seed in the Central Division. Staal added an empty-net goal to the Marian Gaborik's franchise record for goals in a season with 42.

Stars 4, Kings 2: Jamie Benn had a natural hat trick in the first period to lead Dallas past Los Angeles.

It was Benn's second hat trick in three games and the fourth of his career. Benn has seven goals during a three-game scoring streak.

Flames 7, Golden Knights 1: Mark Jankowski had four goals, including his first NHL hat trick, and host Calgary beat Vegas to finish a disappointing season.

Spencer Foo, Garnet Hathaway and Johnny Gaudreau also scored for the Flames, who had only nine goals while losing eight of their previous nine. Calgary finished the season 37-35-10, and will miss the playoffs for the seventh time in nine seasons. A big factor was its 17-20-4 home record, the worst since 12-18-11 in 2001-02.

Oilers 2, Canucks 2 (SO): Leon Draisaitl scored in regulation and added the shootout winner to help host Edmonton spoil the final game for Vancouver's Daniel and Henrik Sedin.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins also scored for the Oilers, who won their final two games in a disappointing season that saw them miss the playoffs.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Tampa Bay	82	54	23	5	113	296	236
x-Boston	81	50	19	12	112	268	210
y-Washington	82	49	26	7	105	299	239
x-Toronto	82	48	26	8	104	277	255
x-Pittsburgh	82	47	29	6	100	272	250
x-Philadelphia	82	46	24	14	98	251	243
x-Columbus	82	45	30	7	97	242	239
x-New Jersey	82	44	29	9	97	248	244

Florida	81	43	30	8	94	244	244
Carolina	82	36	36	10	82	228	256
N.Y. Islanders	82	35	37	10	80	264	296
N.Y. Rangers	82	35	39	9	77	231	268
Detroit	82	35	38	9	73	217	263
Montreal	82	29	40	13	71	209	264
San Jose	81	28	41	11	67	201	247
Buffalo	82	25	45	12	69	219	280

Western Conference

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
z-Nashville	82	52	20	10	114	277	218
x-Winnipeg	82	50	20	10	114	277	218
y-Vegas	82	49	24	9	109	277	228
x-Minnesota	82	45	26	11	101	253	232
x-Anaheim	82	44	25	13	101	235	216
x-San Jose	82	45	27	10	100	252	229
x-Los Angeles	82	45	29	8	98	239	203
x-Corona	82	43	30	9	95	257	237

St. Louis	82	44	32	6	94	226	227
Dallas	82	42	32	8	92	235	225
Calgary	82	37	35	10	84	218	248
x-Edmonton	82	36	36	6	78	234	248
Chicago	82	33	39	10	76	229	256
Vancouver	82	32	41	9	73	217	263
Arizona	82	29	41	12	70	208	256

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.
x-clinched playoff spot; y-clinched division; z-clinched conference.

Friday's games

Pittsburgh at Ottawa
Tampa Bay 7, Buffalo 5
St. Louis 4, Chicago 1

Saturday's games

Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Rangers 3
N.Y. Islanders 4, Detroit 3, OT
San Jose 5, New Jersey 3
Winnipeg 4, Chicago 3
Carolina 3, Tampa Bay 2, OT
Calgary 7, Vegas 1
Toronto 4, Montreal 2
St. Louis 3, Buffalo 3
Nashville 4, Columbus 2
San Jose 3, Dallas 1
Anaheim 3, Arizona 0
Edmonton 3, Vancouver 2, SO
Chicago 7, Vegas 1
Dallas 4, Los Angeles 2
Montreal 4, San Jose 3

Sunday's game

Florida at Boston

Saturday

Flames 7, Golden Knights 1

Vegas 3, Golden Knights 1
St. Louis 3, Dallas 1
First Period—1, Calgary, Gaudreau (4 Reilands), 4:03. 2, Calgary, Jankowski (4 Reilands, Stone), 4:13. 3, Calgary, Jankowski (5 Shore, Browner), 7:31.
Second Period—1, Vegas, Eakin (11, 0:51). 5, Calgary, Hatheway (A. Stajan, L. Campbell, 1:08), 1:08. (Barkowski, Backlund), 12:02. 7, Calgary, Jankowski 16, 16:06 (sh).
Third Period—1, Calgary, Jankowski 17 (Shore, Browner), 1:32 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Calgary 6-14-7; Vegas 0-6-12-13-31.
Goalies—Vegas, Subban 13-42 (13 shots, 12 saves). Flyers 25-12-4 (18-12).
Calgary, Gillies 3-5-1 (27-26).
A—15,289 (19,289). T—2:50.

Avalanche 5, Blues 2

St. Louis 2, Colorado 5
First Period—1, Colorado, Girard 4 (Soderberg, Schneider), 1:12.
Second Period—2, Colorado, Barrie 14 (Rantanen, Landeskog), 6:11 (pp). 3, St. Louis, Schwartz, 12:40. 4, Colorado, McKinnon 10, 12:28 (pp). 4, Colorado, McKinnon 20, 12:28 (pp).
Third Period—5, Colorado, Landeskog 28 (Schwartz), 16:37. 6, St. Louis, Ochocki 28 (Bergeron, Lefebvre), 16:12. 3-4, Colorado, Nieto 15 (Soderberg), 19:51.
Fourth Period—1, Colorado, Nieto 17-19-39.
Goalies—Colorado, Bernier 19-13-33 (34-32).
A—18,087 (18,275). T—2:56.

Ducks 3, Coyotes 0

Anaheim 3, Arizona 0
First Period—1, Anaheim, Henrique 24 (P. Kessel, 1:08).
Second Period—2, Anaheim, Rakell 34 (Manson, Getzlaf), 16:17.
Third Period—1, Anaheim, Lindholm 13 (Henrique), 19:56.
Shots on Goal—Anaheim 10-8-9-27. Arizona 9-12-10-31.
Goalies—Anaheim, Miller 12-6-6 (31 shots, 3 saves). Coyotes, Bernier 19-13-33 (34-32).
A—17,382 (17,125). T—2:25.



Avalanche left wing Gabriel Landeskog celebrates with teammates during the third period on Saturday against the St. Louis Blues. Colorado won 5-2 to advance to the playoffs.

Flyers 5, Rangers 0

N.Y. Rangers 0, Flyers 5
First Period—1, Philadelphia, Provora 17 (Courtier, Voracek), 6:34.
Second Period—2, Philadelphia, Giroux 32 (Courtier, Gostisheh), 12:24 (pp). 3, Philadelphia, Raffi (Manning, Gostisheh), 17:53. 4, Philadelphia, Giroux 33 (Raffi), 17:59.
Third Period—5, Philadelphia, Giroux 34 (Sanheim), 10:11.
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 5-5-1-7. Philadelphia 13-19-40-31.
Goalies—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 26-26-7 (40 shots-35 saves). Philadelphia, Elliott 23-11-7 (17-17).
A—20,028 (19,549). T—2:22.

Capitals 5, Devils 3

New Jersey 3, Washington 5
First Period—1, Washington, Ovechkin 48 (Kuznetsov, Wilson), 2:21. 2, New Jersey, Hirschler 20 (Severson, Maroon), 8:10. 3, Washington, Backstrom 21 (Carlson, Connolly), 19:27.
Second Period—4, Washington, Kempny 3 (Gersich, Stephenson), 3:44. 5, New Jersey, Wood 2 (Zacha, Maroon), 19:07.
Third Period—6, New Jersey, Maroon 17 (Zacha, Wood), 2:04. 7, Washington, Ovechkin 49, 5:11. 8, Washington, Burakovsky 12 (Kempny, Backstrom), 11:50.
Shots on Goal—New Jersey 9-9-8-26. Washington 7-10-26.
Goalies—New Jersey, Schneider 17-16-16 (26 shots-21 saves). Washington, Holtby 34-16-4 (26-23).
A—18,506 (18,277). T—2:23.

Wild 6, Sharks 3

Minnesota 2, San Jose 3
First Period—1, Minnesota, Brodin 6 (Coyte, Ennis), 10:53. 2, Minnesota, Cloutier 11 (Ennis, Seip), 14:53. 3, San Jose, Burns 12 (Sorenson, Ward), 15:28. 4, San Jose, Pavelski 22 (Boecker), 16:32.
Second Period—5, Minnesota, Girard 31 (Greenway, Seeler), 11:19. 6, Minnesota, Zuckler 32 (Dumba, Niederreiter), 11:47. 7, Minnesota, Zuckler 33 (Niederreiter), 12:44.
Third Period—8, San Jose, Meier 21 (DeMelo, Burns), 18:50. 9, Minnesota, Staal 42, 19:24.
Shots on Goal—Minnesota 12-7-5-24. San Jose 10-12-19-39.
Goalies—Minnesota, Dubnyk 35-16-7 (30 shots-27 saves). San Jose, Jones 30-22-8 (34 shots-16 saves).
A—17,562 (17,567). T—2:22.

Jets 4, Blackhats 1

Chicago 4, Winnipeg 1
First Period—1, Winnipeg, Byfuglien 8 (Laine, Wheeler), 15:12 (pp).
Second Period—2, Winnipeg, Connor 31, 0:24. 3, Winnipeg, Copp 8 (Tanev, Lowry), 3:56. 4, Winnipeg, Copp 9 (Armia), 6:35 (sh). 5, Chicago, Seabrook 7 (Murphy, Kane), 9:08.
Shots on Goal—Chicago 6-11-14-31. Winnipeg 11-15-13-39.
Goalies—Chicago, Glass 37-33 (39 shots-34 saves). Winnipeg, Hellberg 44-11-9 (31-30).
A—15,321 (15,294). T—2:22.

Predators 4, Blue Jackets 2

Columbus 2, Nashville 4
First Period—1, Nashville, Watson 14 (Fisher), 7:52. 2, Nashville, Forsberg 24 (Hartnell, Johansen), 11:04 (pp). 3, Nashville, Forsberg 25 (Turris, Smith), 19:59 (pp).
Second Period—4, Columbus, Anderson 19 (Lester), 7:55.
Third Period—5, Columbus, Dubinsky 6 (Harrington, Hamkainen), 7:20 (sh). 6, Nashville, Forsberg 26, 19:20.
Shots on Goal—Columbus 13-10-8-31. Nashville 15-10-2-25.
Goalies—Columbus, Koproski 8-8-1 (26 shots-23 saves). Nashville, Rinne 42-13-4 (23-22).
A—17,594 (17,113). T—2:27.

Bruins 5, Senators 2

Ottawa 2, Boston 5
First Period—1, Ottawa, Dzingel 22 (White, Duchene), 12:31.
Second Period—2, Boston, Pastnak 34 (Bergeron), 17:07.
Third Period—5, Ottawa, Dzingel 22 (Gionta, McQuaid), 17:01.
Fourth Period—7, Boston, Acciari 10 (Schaller, Chara), 18:09. 7, Boston, Backes 13 (Heinen), 19:17.
Shots on Goal—Ottawa 10-9-9-28. Boston 13-7-9-35.
Goalies—Ottawa, Taylor 0-10 (34 shots-30 saves). Boston, Khudbin 16-7 (28-28).
A—17,565 (17,565). T—2:32.

Oilers 3, Canucks 2 (SO)

Vancouver 2, Edmonton 3
First Period—1, Edmonton, Drastal 25 (Nugent-Hopkins, McDavid), 13:52. 2, Vancouver, Jokinen 5 (Leipic, Del Zotto), 17:47.
Second Period—3, Vancouver, Motte 5 (Archibald, Sutter), 11:45. 4, Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 24 (Nurse, McDavid), 16:10.
Shootout—Vancouver 2 (Sedin G, Sedin G) 2-1. Edmonton 1 (Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 10-13-13).
Shots on Goal—Vancouver 10-13-13. Edmonton 17-10-3-30.
Goalies—Vancouver 10-13-13. Edmonton 17-10-3-30.
Shots on Goal—Vancouver 10-13-13. Edmonton 17-10-3-30.
Goalies—Vancouver 10-13-13. Edmonton 17-10-3-30.
A—18,347 (18,641). T—2:44.

Stars 4, Kings 2

Dallas 4, Los Angeles 2
First Period—1, Dallas, Shore 11, 6:41. 2, Dallas, Benn 34 (Lindell, Radulov), 8:40. 3, Dallas, Benn 35 (Seguin, Radulov), 16:10.
Second Period—5, Los Angeles, Martin 38 (Carter, Clifford), 3:45. 6, Los Angeles, Martinez 4 (Amadio, Toffey), 12:27.
Third Period—1, Dallas, Shore 12-11-15. Los Angeles 8-10-16-30.
Goalies—Dallas, Lehtonen 15-14-33 (36 shots-34 saves). Los Angeles, Kessel 28-13 (18-14).
A—18,230 (18,230). T—2:24.

Panthers 4, Sabres 3

Buffalo 3, Florida 4
First Period—1, Florida, Huberdeau 27 (Eblad, Trocheck), 3:04 (pp). 2, Florida, Sevcov 11 (Vetrano), 10:58. 3, Florida, Bjugstad 19 (McCaun, Dadonov), 13:39.
Second Period—4, Buffalo, Rominelli 16 (Mittelstadt, Rodriguez), 15:30. 5, Buffalo, Reinhart 25 (Guhle), 15:53. 6, Buffalo, Trocheck 31 (Sevcov), 18:17. 7, Buffalo, O'Reilly 24 (Eichel), 19:43 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Buffalo 10-10-21-41. Florida 12-11-4-27.
Goalies—Buffalo, Johnson 10-17-33 (12 shots-9 saves). Wilcox 0-0-0 (14-14). Florida, Reimer 21-14-6 (41-38).
A—16,254 (19,219). T—2:32.

Maple Leafs 4, Canadiens 2

Montreal 2, Toronto 4
First Period—1, Toronto, Matthews 34 (Gardiner, Nylander), 18:05 (pp).
Second Period—2, Montreal, Carr 6 (McGarr, Rychel), 16:04.
Third Period—3, Toronto, Hyman 15 (McGarr, Matthews), 0:37. 4, Toronto, Kadri 32 (Reilly, Bozak), 17:10 (pp). 5, Montreal, Petry 12 (Drouin, Gallagher), 19:19 (pp). 6, Toronto, Marleau 27, 19:50.
Shots on Goal—Montreal 10-10-13-33. Toronto 6-16-36.
Goalies—Montreal, Price 16-26-77 (30 shots-26 saves). Toronto, Andersen 38-25-33 (31).
A—15,525 (18,819). T—2:34.

Islanders 4, Red Wings 3 (OT)

Islanders 4, Detroit 3
First Period—1, Detroit, Zetterberg 11 (Niskanen), 11:13.
Second Period—2, N.Y. Islanders, Ladd 12 (Hickey, Clutterbuck), 3:51. 3, Detroit, Abdelkader 13 (Kronwall, Zetterberg), 11:58 (pp).
Third Period—4, Detroit, Larkin 16 (Quellet, Mathieu), 4:10. 5, N.Y. Islanders, Lee 40 (Pelich, Barzal), 6:25. 6, N.Y. Islanders, 19:30 (pp).
Shootout—N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 37 (Pulock), 3:16.
Fourth Period—1, N.Y. Islanders 9-16-10. 5-40. Detroit 12-17-16-4-39.
Goalies—N.Y. Islanders 13-8-8 (35 shots-34 saves). Detroit, Coreau 9-5-1 (40-36).
A—19,515 (20,000). T—2:28.

Hurricanes 3, Lightning 2 (OT)

Tampa Bay 2, Carolina 3
First Period—1, Carolina, Staal 19 (Williams, Di Giuseppe), 0:19. 2, Carolina, Williams (Di Giuseppe, Hanifin), 17:36.
Second Period—3, Tampa Bay, Callahan 34 (Kunitz), 3:30.
Third Period—4, Tampa Bay, Palat 11 (Miller, Johnson), 11:11.
Fourth Period—1, Carolina, Lindholm 16 (Ferry, Tervahauta), 0:09.
Shots on Goal—Tampa Bay 12-11-11. Carolina 14-13-12-42.
Goalies—Tampa Bay, Domingue 7-9-1 (42 shots-36 saves). Carolina, Ward 23-14-34 (34-32).
A—15,402 (18,680). T—2:40.

Ays top Blues for last spot in playoffs

By PAT GRAHAM

Associated Press

DENVER — Gabriel Landeskog sat at his locker stall, his skates still laced and most of his gear still on.

The only thing missing was his jersey, which was given to a lucky fan.

Quick, get the captain a new one — the Colorado Avalanche are going to need it where they're going.

Nathan MacKinnon scored his first goal in 10 games, Jonathan Bernier stopped 32 shots and the Avalanche earned the final playoff spot in the Western Conference with a 5-2 win over the St. Louis Blues on Saturday night.

Defensesmen Samuel Girard and Tyson Barrie scored, while Landeskog and Matt Nieto added empty-netters for the Avalanche, who won the West's second wild card and headed to the postseason as the first team since 1914. They will face top-seeded Nashville in the opening round a season after recording a league-low 48 points.

"It's an unbelievable accomplishment," MacKinnon said. "It's got to be one of the best accomplishments in modern sports history."

Landeskog already has a start on his playoff beard.

Game No. 82 for these two boiled down to a winner-take-all scenario. Although, there was one caveat — the Avalanche couldn't allow the game to go to overtime since the Blues held the tiebreaker. St. Louis pulled out all the stops late in the third. Taking out goalie Jake Allen with around 4:35 remaining, Landeskog and Nieto scored on empty-netters to talies that sent the raucous crowd into full celebration mode.

Colorado finished with 95 points to become first NHL team to post a 40-point gain after an 82-game season since the Pittsburgh Penguins jumped that from 2005-06 (58 to 97) to 2006-07 (105).

Next up, just that. Landeskog's plan anyway — lay on the couch with his dog and watch the Masters on Sunday. Then, get ready for Nashville.

"If I play the way we played tonight, we have a good chance,"

Jaden Schwartz had a power-play goal and Brayden Schenn scored with 38.4 seconds remaining for the Blues, who saw their playoff appearance streak halted at six straight seasons.

The Blues arrived in town late following a 4-1 win in Chicago on Friday night. They sent Allen to the Mile High City early so he would be better rested for the big game. Allen made one diving save after another to keep things close. He even played through a hamstring strain he suffered in the game.

MB SCOREBOARD

American League										National League										Giants 7, Dodgers 5 (14)										Mets 3, Nationals 2										Yankees 8, Orioles 3										Athletics 7, Angels 3																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
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MLB

McCutchen lifts Giants with three-run HR



John Herra/AP

Giants right fielder Andrew McCutchen celebrates his three-run home run in the 14th inning for a walkoff win against the Dodgers on Saturday in San Francisco.

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—Andrew McCutchen snapped out of a prolonged slump with five hits in six at-bats Saturday night. Midway through his seventh at-bat, he knew it was just a matter of time until he got hit No. 6.

McCutchen hit a three-run homer to cap a 12-pitch at-bat against reliever Wilmer Font, giving him a career-high six hits and the San Francisco Giants a 7-5 victory over the Los Angeles on Saturday night.

"You're talking about a great hitter that was having a great night," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "He topped it off really well, didn't he?"

McCutchen fell behind Font 1-2 before fouling off seven pitches. He then turned on a high-and-tight 2-2 fastball and drove it into the seats in left field, scoring Kelly Tomlinson and Joe Panik, who both singled off Font (0-2).

"I was just trying to fight him off, fight him off, until I got comfortable enough to whatever he threw up there I was ready to

hit," McCutchen said. "He didn't elevate it too much there, and I was able to elevate."

McCutchen drove in four runs and raised his batting average from .083 to .258. The 2013 NL MVP got a hearty ovation from Giants fans for the walk-off blast, his first big moment with San Francisco since being acquired from Pittsburgh in an offseason blockbuster.

"Finally showed up today. Finally," McCutchen said. "It's only what, Game 7, but when you're not getting hits, it feels like it's forever. Feels good to show up today and do the job."

Buster Posey also homered for the Giants, who wasted leads of 1-0, 3-1 and 4-3 before winning on McCutchen's shot. Panik added three hits and Austin Jackson had two.

Roberto Gomez retired three batters for his first major league win. The Giants emptied their bullpen by using nine relievers.

"They kept us in the ballgame," McCutchen said.

The Dodgers had taken a 5-4 lead in the top of the 14th when Logan Forsythe singled in Yasiel Puig.

The game lasted 5 hours, 16 minutes after beginning two hours later than originally scheduled due to heavy rains that forced the postponement of Friday's game. It was the sixth rainout in AT&T Park history and the first since 2006.

Dodgers skipper Dave Roberts was down to one reliever when the game ended. Roberts also used two starting pitchers, Clayton Kershaw and Hyun-Jin Ryu, as pinch hitters.

Chase Utley homered, Corey Seager had two hits and reached base five times, and Cody Bellinger added a pair of singles for Los Angeles.

The Dodgers are 2-6, matching their worst start since 1976.

"We just came up short again," Roberts said. "That's five runs in 14 innings. You have to look at each at-bat and the quality needs to get better. There needs to be a better pitch-to-pitch focus."

Utley homered in the seventh, his first of the season.

Posey's home run off starter Rich Hill was the first of the season for the Giants cleanup hitter and first since Aug. 8, 2017.

Roundup

Phillies pound Marlins with most runs since '09

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Long counts and long drives helped the Philadelphia Phillies to an easy win.

Maikel Franco and Aaron Altherr each hit a grand slam, Carlos Santana and Jorge Alfaro also went deep and the Phillies routed the Miami Marlins 20-1 Saturday night.

Velazquez (1-1) allowed one run and four hits, striking out six in six innings.

Franco finished with six RBIs after just missing another home with his two-run double hit high off the left-center field wall. He has driven in 10 runs in the past two games.

SCOREBOARD FROM PAGE 28

Tigers 6, White Sox 1

Detroit	ab	r	h	bi	Chicago	ab	r	h	bi
Martin cf	4	1	0	0	Moncada 2b	4	1	2	0
Chiribiro 3b	4	0	2	0	A.Garcia rf	4	0	1	1
McBarr 1b	4	0	1	0	J.Albora 1b	5	1	0	0
Goodyrn-1b	0	0	0	0	Davidson dh	3	0	0	0
Cutler p	4	0	1	0	Dinnico 1b	4	0	2	0
V.Mrinn dh	3	1	0	0	W.Cstl c	3	0	0	0
R.Reyes pr	0	0	0	0	T.Andr ss	4	0	0	0
Stump p	0	0	0	0	Y.Sanchez 3b	4	0	0	0
B.Frnt 2b	3	1	0	0	Engel cf	4	0	0	0
J.McCnn c	3	1	0	1					
J.Jones lf	3	0	0	0					
T.Jagrs ss	3	1	0	0					
D.Mchdo 2b	5	1	2	2					
Totals	33	6	6	6	Totals	34	1	8	1
Detroit	000	012	001	—6					
Chicago	E—Andarillo (1), DP—Detzler 1, LOB—Detroit 12, Chicago 11, 2B—Castellanos (2), R.Machado (6), Moncada (2), Belmonico (1), W.Castillo (2), SS—Goodyrn (2), J.Jones 2 (2), J.Jagrs (1), SF—A.Garcia (1).								
Detroit	ab	r	h	bi	Chicago	ab	r	h	bi
Miller WJ-1	5	0	6	0	3	4	0	0	2
Wilson	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Jimenez	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Stump	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gilto L-1	5	0	4	5	5	3	4	0	0
Santana	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minaya	1	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0
Infrano	1	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0
Minaya pitched to 4 batters in the 9th HPB—by Gilto (gigesas), by Gilto (Martinez), by Gilto (McCann), by Santalio (Jones), WP—Wilson, T—3:35, A—16:25 (40:01).									

Santana's shot to deep right field was his 1,000th career hit.

Manager Gabe Kapler has been impressed with his team's patient approach at the plate. Philadelphia's hitters walked six times and saw 200 pitches.

"We've been grinding out at-bats and great things happened," Kapler said.

Marlins left-hander Dillon Peters (1-1) gave up nine runs and nine hits in 2½ innings. Miami catcher Bryan Holaday tossed a perfect eighth, fanning cleanup hitter Rhys Hoskins on a 62 mph pitch to end the inning and earn smiles from teammates in the dugout.

Franco's homer in the first made it 5-1. Altherr's drive in the third extended the lead to 9-1. He was 1 for 19 this season before putting one in the seats in left.

"I'm seeing the ball really good, feel really comfortable and just trying to get deeper in the count and hit a good pitch," Franco said.

The Phillies had not hit two slams in one game since Ryan Howard and Raul Ibanez connected against Washington on April 27, 2009.

They scored 19 runs combined in the first six games before becoming the first NL team to score 20 in one of its first 10 games of a season since the 1954 Chicago Cubs.

Red Sox 10, Rays 3: Xander Bogaerts hit the first grand slam for host Boston since the end of the 2016 season and drove in a career-best six runs to carry the Red Sox to their seventh straight victory.

J.D. Martinez and Rafael Devers homered for Boston, and Rick Porcello (2-0) pitched into the eighth inning.

Astros 1, Padres 0 (10): Four-

time Gold Glove first baseman Eric Hosmer overran a towering popup with two outs in the 10th inning, allowing the ball to fall without being touched and giving host Houston a bizarre win.

A single by Brian McCann and a steal by pinch runner Derek Fisher — ruled safe after a video review flipped the call — set up the unusual ending.

Mets 3, Nationals 2: Asdrubal Cabrera hit an RBI double and scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, helping the Mets beat the host Nationals for their fourth straight win despite Bryce Harper's fifth homer.

Dave Martinez was ejected for the first time as a manager as the NL East champions lost their fourth consecutive game to fall to 4-4. Washington's rookie skipper put on quite an old-school show, too, throwing his cap and kicking at the dirt near home plate when he was tossed by umpire Marty Foster in the third.

Cardinals 5, Diamondbacks 3: In the coldest home start in Cardinals history, Jose Martinez homered and drove in four runs as host St. Louis stopped Arizona's four-game winning streak.

It was 37 degrees at game time with a wind chill of 29. The previous recorded low in St. Louis was 38 degrees for the first pitch on April 16, 1961, against Cincinnati.

Cubs 5, Brewers 2: Ian Happ hit a tiebreaking two-run single during visiting Chicago's four-run ninth.

Happ struck out three more times, running his team-high total to a whopping 17 in seven games, before coming with a clutch swing in his final at-bat.

Reds 7, Pirates 4: Eugenio Suarez hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth inning, pow-



Tom Lynn/AP

The Brewers' Jeff Bandy, right, beats the throw home to score the go-ahead run as the Cubs' Wilson Contreras, left, awaits the ball during the eighth inning Saturday in Milwaukee. Chicago won 5-2.

ering the visiting Reds to their second win of the season.

Yankees 8, Orioles 3: Sonny Gray pitched six effective innings and rookie Miguel Andujar hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly, leading the host Yankees to the win.

Rangers 5, Blue Jays 1: Texas' Mike Minor pitched two-hit ball over six innings at home to win a start for the first time since 2014.

Rockies 3, Braves 2 (10): Tony Wolters drew a bases-loaded walk off Aroldys Vizcaino with two outs in the 10th inning, sending host Colorado to the victory.

Royals 1, Indians 0: Lucas Duda homered off Trevor Bauer for the game's only run, and Ian Kennedy pitched six shutout innings for the visiting Royals.

Duda's shot in the seventh off Bauer (0-1) was one of only three hits by Kansas City and a rare highlight as the teams survived

Reds 7, Pirates 4: Eugenio Suarez hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth inning, pow-

Semien had an early two-run single for visiting Oakland, and Andrew Triggs pitched four-hit ball into the sixth inning.

Shohei Ohtani didn't play for the Angels while resting for his home pitching debut Sunday. The two-way Japanese sensation homered in each of Los Angeles' last three games as a designated hitter, including a 449-foot shot Friday against Oakland.

Mariners 11, Twins 4: Playing in a Twins-record low of 27 degrees, the visiting Mariners got homers from Kyle Seager and Guillermo Heredia in a runaway victory.

The first-pitch temperature at Target Field beat the Minnesota mark of 31 degrees for a game in 2014.

Tigers 6, White Sox 1: Miguel Cabrera drove in three runs and Michael Fulmer pitched shutout ball into the sixth inning, leading visiting Detroit to a chilly road win.

UFC/SPORTS BRIEFS



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Rose Namajunas, right, punches Joanna Jedrzejczyk during the first round of their women's strawweight title bout at UFC 223, early on Sunday in New York. Namajunas won the bout.

Crown: Nurmagomedov calls out McGregor

FROM BACK PAGE

that led to featherweight champ Max Holloway getting the call on six days' notice to move up in weight. Holloway was ruled medically unfit to compete on Friday, which forced UFC to bump Iaquinta from an undercard bout against Paul Felder to a title fight.

Nurmagomedov was on the bus and said he had to be restrained by security to keep from fighting McGregor in the underbelly of the arena.

Nothing stopped him against Iaquinta. The 29-year-old Nurmagomedov once wrestled a bear as a child and he had no trouble busting open a clearly overmatched Iaquinta. He used takeowns in the first, second and fifth rounds that led to repeated blows to the back of the head that cleared the way to his first UFC title.

"I want to say thank you to Iaquinta for stepping up and fighting. He is a real Brooklyn gangster," Nurmagomedov said.

Nurmagomedov was the clear fan favorite — fans dotted the arena wearing papakhas, a hat that looks like a powdered wig native to his homeland in Dagestan — and chanted "Khabib! Khabib! Khabib!"

Nurmagomedov lent his papakha to Joe Rogan and called out Georges St-Pierre for a fight later this year at Madison Square Garden.

But he was ready for a fight night doubleheader against anyone.

"Give me 30 minutes rest, little drink of water," Nurmagomedov said. "Give me 30 minutes and I can fight with anybody. Tony, Conor it doesn't matter."

Rose Namajunas also was a passenger on the bus attacked by McGregor and was left so shaken she flirted with the idea of dropping out of her title fight.

She stuck with it — and kept her title.

Namajunas made it 2-for-2 against Joanna Jedrzejczyk and defended her 115-pound championship with a unanimous decision victory in the co-main event.

Namajunas (9-3) defeated Jedrzejczyk in the first round of their first match in November to win the strawweight championship. The 25-year-old Namajunas had to go the full 25 minutes to win 49-46 on all three scorecards.

"I just kept saying, 'I'm the best,'" she said.

She wasn't sure what to think when the dolly McGregor hurled at the bus just missed her window. McGregor faces felony charges that put his fight future in doubt.

UFC President Dana White said he had talked to McGregor about fighting in September but now ev-

everything is up in the air.

"I think there's a mutual respect between us," White said. "I had so many things thrown at me this week. To focus on the show was insane. We'll get back and focus on Conor McGregor."

McGregor's agent, Audie Attar, wrote on Twitter that the former two-division champ "looks forward to getting back to fighting as soon as possible."

Jedrzejczyk (14-2) and Namajunas appeared deadlocked through four rounds. Namajunas' lead left leg absorbed so many punishing kicks it turned bright red, but she bloodied Jedrzejczyk with a series of stiff shots to the face. Jedrzejczyk's right eye was about swollen shut in the fifth but she still landed some jabs that kept her hope alive of regaining her championship.

Namajunas took down Jedrzejczyk with 30 seconds left and the crowd roared in the waning moments of a sensational championship fight UFC needed.

Jedrzejczyk threw her arm around Namajunas for a hug at the end of the bout.

Nicknamed "Thug," Namajunas was soundly booed as the challenger in the first fight at Madison Square Garden. But she left to cheers and a champion then and was clearly the people's choice as she walked to the octagon five months later in Brooklyn. She shared a long embrace and a kiss with fiancée and training partner, Pat Barry.

UFC needed a fresh face in the women's division with former champ and box office draw Ronda Rousey engaged in faux fighting in WWE. Rousey attended a WWE event Saturday night and was set to make pro wrestling debut in a bout Sunday at WrestleMania. She congratulated both Namajunas and Jedrzejczyk and said UFC was lucky to have them both.

White will be in New Orleans to root for Rousey at pro wrestling's signature event.

Namajunas, who preaches the power of positivity over trash talking, proved her first win was no fluke.

"I'm just better, man," she said.

UFC got the main events it needed after the entire card was thrown into disarray the past week.

After one of the UFC's most chaotic weeks — with McGregor led from a police station in handcuffs to face several charges — the promotion got down Saturday night to what it does best: Put on a show.

Brooklyn was sold out with 17,026 fans at Barclays for a record gate of \$3,007,108.12 for sporting events.

"Ridiculous considering the week we had," White said.

Briefly

Minnesota Duluth tops Irish for title

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Karson Kuhlman had a goal and an assist, and Minnesota Duluth beat Notre Dame 2-1 Saturday night to win the school's second NCAA hockey championship.

Jared Thomas also scored and Hunter Shepard stopped 19 shots for the Bulldogs (25-16-3). UMD also won the 2011 title at the Xcel Energy Center.

Andrew Oglevie scored and Cale Morris made 33 saves for Notre Dame (28-10-2), winless in two national title games. The Irish lost to Boston College in 2008.

Minnesota Duluth lost to Denver in last year's championship. The Bulldogs had seven seniors on that team, and then three underclassmen departed early for the NHL, including the starting goaltender.

Five of Minnesota Duluth's top six defencemen are freshmen, and Shepard, a sophomore, recorded a sub-2.00 goals against average with eight shutouts.

Just getting into the NCAA Tournament looked like a long shot on March 17.

UMD lost its second game in the National Collegiate Hockey Conference tournament that afternoon and needed six conference finals that evening to go their way.

They did, allowing UMD to edge Minnesota by .0001 in the formula used to determine the at-large teams. Notre Dame's overtime win over Ohio State in the Big Ten title game put the Bulldogs in the tournament.

For the second straight game, the Bulldogs scored two first-period goals and held on. They beat Ohio State 2-1 Thursday.

UMD took advantage of two Irish turnovers.

Pressured by Kuhlman, Notre

Dame's Jordan Gross lost the puck in the neutral zone. Jade Miller poked the puck ahead to Kuhlman at the Irish blue line, and after a brief hesitation in the right circle, the captain beat Morris with a rising shot.

Newgarden wins

IndyCar race in Phoenix

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Josef Newgarden used four new tires to catch rookie Robert Wickens and win the IndyCar race Saturday night at ISM Raceway.

Newgarden started fourth on a restart with eight laps left, and got around Wickens with three laps to go on the 1.022-mile oval. The defending series champion raced to his eighth IndyCar victory and third on an oval, finishing 2.994 seconds ahead of Wickens.

Wickens was making his first second career start — and first on an oval — for Schmidt Peterson Motorsports.

Alexander Rossi was third, followed by Scott Dixon and James Hinchcliffe as Honda swept the first five spots in the first oval race of the season.

Sock, Harrison's double win puts US in semis

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Jack Sock and Ryan Harrison put the United States in the Davis Cup semifinals for the first time since 2012 by beating Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen 5-7, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (3), 6-4 Saturday to finish off an American sweep.

The United States now will play either Croatia or Kazakhstan in the semifinals Sept. 14-16.

John Isner and Sam Querrey set up the doubles match for the clincher by winning both their singles matches Friday.



ANDY CLAYTON-KING/AP

Minnesota Duluth celebrates after defeating Notre Dame 2-1 on Saturday for NCAA Frozen Four championship in St. Paul, Minn.

MASTERS



Rory McIlroy celebrates an eagle on the 18th hole Saturday.

Scoreboard

Masters

Saturday

At Augusta National Golf Club

Augusta, Ga.

Purse: TBA (\$11 million in 2017)

Yardage: 7,435; Par: 72

Third Round

a=denotes amateur

Patrick Reed	69-66-67-202	-14
Rory McIlroy	69-71-65-205	-11
Rickie Fowler	70-72-65-207	-9
Jon Rahm	73-68-65-208	-8
Henrik Stenson	69-70-70-209	-7
Tommy Fleetwood	72-72-66-210	-6
Bubba Watson	73-69-68-210	-6
Marc Leishman	70-67-73-210	-6
Justin Thomas	74-67-70-211	-5
Dustin Johnson	66-74-71-213	-5
Dustin Johnson	73-68-71-212	-4
Cameron Smith	71-72-70-213	-3
Justin Rose	72-71-71-213	-3
Louis Oosthuizen	71-71-71-213	-3
Jason Day	71-71-71-213	-3
Jimmy Walker	73-71-71-215	-1
Brendan Stabler	68-75-72-215	-1
Charley Hoffman	68-75-72-215	-1
Matthew Fitzpatrick	73-71-71-216	-1
Si Woo Kim	75-73-68-216	-1
Kevin Kisner	72-75-69-216	-1
Francesco Molinari	72-74-70-216	-1
Satoshi Kodaira	72-74-71-216	-1
Russell Henley	73-72-71-216	-1
Adam Hadwin	72-75-69-216	-1
Hideki Matsuyama	73-71-72-216	-1
Adam Pataki	74-72-69-217	+1
Paul Casey	74-75-66-218	+2
Adam Scott	74-75-69-218	+2
Daniel Berger	73-74-71-218	+2
Ryan Moore	74-72-72-218	+2
Jonathan Vegas	74-73-70-218	+2
Zach Johnson	70-74-74-218	+2
Brandan Grace	74-73-71-219	+3
Bernhard Langer	74-74-71-219	+3
Paul Hlesner	74-74-73-219	+3
Rafa Cabrera Bello	69-76-74-219	+3
Tiger Woods	73-75-72-220	+4
Hideki Matsuyama	74-74-73-220	+4
Brandan Grace	73-74-74-220	+4
Brandan Grace	70-79-72-221	+5
Xander Schauffele	71-78-72-221	+5
Martin Kaymer	74-73-74-221	+5
Kyle Stanger	74-74-73-221	+5
Tyrell Hatton	74-75-73-222	+6
Choudhury	74-75-73-222	+6
Chae Seung-hwan	76-71-75-222	+6
Jonathon Lomax	74-75-74-223	+7
Chris Fowler	74-75-74-223	+7
Brian Harman	74-76-75-223	+7
Vijay Singh	71-74-79-224	+8

Putting woes help sink Spieth, Johnson, Thomas

BY MARK LONG

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Dustin Johnson burned the edges, Jordan Spieth layed out more than his fair share, Justin Thomas just never got comfortable on the greens.

Three of the world's best golfers blamed putting woes for being mostly stagnant on Moving Day at the Masters on Saturday.

With everyone else around them moving up the leaderboard, Johnson, Spieth and Thomas didn't keep pace. And they had a similar culprit: The putter, arguably the most important club on Augusta National's treacherous greens.

Johnson and Spieth each shot 1-under 71 in the third round. Thomas was one stroke better (70) and moved to 5-under heading into the final round.

Their body language on the greens told the story. They leaned left. They leaned right. They begged a hole and pleaded a lot. They shook their heads, swung their putters through the air and walked off in a huff more often than not.

All three are considered long shots to win golf's first major of 2018. Third-round leader Patrick Reed is 14 under,

three shots ahead of Rory McIlroy and five ahead of Rickie Fowler.

"I get to go out for one of my only stress-free rounds that I've ever really played at Augusta National," Spieth said.

Spieth looked like he had solved his putting woes last week at the Houston Open and then again Thursday when he opened with a 6-under 66 that gave him a two-stroke lead after the first round.

But the 2015 Masters champion and two-time runner-up (2014, 2016) failed to adjust to the speed of the greens Saturday and had too much pace on too many. After needing just 24 putts in the opening round, the 24-year-old Texan had nine more in the third.

"There was just a lid on the hole," Spieth said, estimating that he lipped out five or six putts. "I felt like I played a 4- or 5-under round, something to stay in this tournament, and just got kind of unfortunate on some of the lips."

Spieth skirted edges on Nos. 2 and 3, missing birdie putts on consecutive holes and providing an early indicator of his round.

Johnson knows the feeling. Ranked No. 1 in the world, Johnson had one huge mistake all day: A double bogey on the par-4 11th after driving way left into some bushes.

BY DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The only thunder was on the ground, not in the sky, a series of ear-splitting roars for Patrick Reed and his two eagles, Rory McIlroy and his final birdie, and everyone else who tried desperately to keep up with them in the Masters.

"The roars ... it's hard not to know what's going on," McIlroy said.

By the end of a wet and wild Saturday at Augusta National, Reed helped bring this Masters into focus.

Reed seized control with a pair of eagles on the back nine, two big pars and a 5-under 67 that gave him a three-shot lead over McIlroy as he goes for his first major in the city where he led undermanned Augusta State to two NCAA titles.

His primary challenger is McIlroy, in the final group at the Masters for the first time in seven years, this time with a shot at the career Grand Slam.

This time it's for a green jacket, not a gold Ryder Cup trophy. This is for themselves, not for team.

Reed and McIlroy are indelibly linked to that Ryder Cup singles match at Hazletine some 18 months ago when they traded big putts and uppercuts until Reed prevailed on the 18th hole.

"It won't be quite as intense as that Ryder Cup match, I don't think," McIlroy said, alluding to the partisan and at times rude nature of cheers rarely found at Augusta National.

"I think we'll still be feeling it. It's the latest round of a major championship. Patrick is going for his first major. And I'm going for ... something else."



Patrick Reed hits a drive on the 18th hole during the third round at the Masters on Saturday in Augusta, Ga.

He paused and smiled upon hearing a few chuckles.

That "something else" is something grand. At stake for the McIlroy is the final leg of the career Grand Slam, achieved by only five other players, and completed only once before at the Masters by Gene Sarazen in 1935.

"It's going to be good fun," he said.

Reed ran off three straight birdies around the turn, and he stretched his lead to as many as five shots with his eagles.

The first one was a 15-foot putt on the 13th hole. The next one was far more bold. From just under 270 yards, with the rain making the air feel heavy, Reed hit 3-wood just over the water and short of the bunker. His chip from 80 feet slammed against the pin and dropped for eagle. Reed pumped his fist, the kind of emotion he typ-

ically saves for the Ryder Cup.

He was at 14-under 202. McIlroy made up a five-shot deficit in eight holes when he chipped in for eagle on the par-5 eighth. Reed was in the group behind him, and perhaps the cheers inspired him. He holed a 10-footer for birdie, the start of three in a row to regain control.

"Any time you hear a bunch of roars, you're going to get excited, especially if you feel like you're playing some good golf," Reed said. "Felt like I was doing what I needed to do. Of course, I heard the roar on 8, but then to birdie 8, to make the putt on 9, and then hit a good shot on 10 and make birdie there ... I just felt like from that point, the crowds were electrified."

"You had to ride the momentum and keep it going."

McIlroy can only hope he didn't

use up all his luck. He figures that chip-in at No. 8 was going off the green except that it struck the pin. He also feared for the worst when his second shot on the par-5 13th went into a sea of pink azaleas, and he wasn't sure he could find the ball. He found it, and the bushes are thin enough he could chip out of the mess and escape with par.

"Just a great day," McIlroy said. "To get myself into the final group, and have a chance to win another major ... you couldn't ask for much more out of today."

The verbal gamesmanship may have started early.

"I feel like all the pressure is on him," McIlroy said. "He's got to go out and protect that, and he's got a few guys chasing him that are pretty big-time players. He's got that to deal with and sleep on tonight."

Rickie Fowler made eagle on the par-5 second and was 5 under through eight holes. He cooled until the end of his round, when a pair of birdies over the last two holes gave him a 65 and left him five shots behind.

Jon Rahm of Spain also chipped in for eagle on No. 8 and saved par on the 13th after hitting into the creek in his round of 65. He was at 8-under 208. Henrik Stenson (74) was seven shots behind.

Tiger Woods had to significantly lower his goal this week. He shot 72, was 18 shots behind and now hopes to finish the tournament under par.

So many others who started the third round with a chance didn't do nearly enough to stay even remotely close to Reed. Justin Thomas (70), Jordan Spieth (71) and Dustin Johnson (71) all are at least nine shots behind.



Jordan Spieth reacts to a missed putt on the 17th hole during the third round at the Masters on Saturday.

SPORTS



Two-man race

Reed, McIlroy in control
at Augusta » **Golf, Page 31**

UFC 223

Move aside, Conor

Nurmagomedov wins
McGregor's vacated
lightweight crown

BY DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Khabib Nurmagomedov wanted an unsanctioned brawl against Conor McGregor in a loading dock. He instead ended his long ride toward a UFC title with a championship belt to bring back to Russia.

Nurmagomedov capped one of the rockiest weeks in UFC's 25-year-history with a dominant outing over a bloodied Al Iaquinta to win the 155-pound championship by unanimous decision in the main event of UFC 223 on Saturday night.

**'Where's
Conor?
You want
to fight
this bus?'**

**Khabib
Nurmagomedov**
UFC 155-pound
champion

Move aside, McGregor: Nurmagomedov is primed for main events, not just side-shows with dollies and broken glass.

"Where's Conor? You want to fight this bus?" Nurmagomedov said.

Nurmagomedov won a belt stripped from McGregor this week because the tempestuous Irishman — who ignited a melee when he threw a hand cart and guard railing at a bus full of UFC fighters — had not fought for UFC in 17 months.

He's now the only fighter who can stake a claim to the lightweight title.

Nurmagomedov improved to 26-0 (10-0 in UFC) in a path to the lightweight championship much more laborious than his five rounds in the ring at Barclays Center. He won 50-43 on two scorecards and 50-44 on the third.

Nurmagomedov had four fights against interim champ Tony Ferguson fall through — the latest because of a freak knee injury

SEE CROWN ON PAGE 30



Russia's Khabib Nurmagomedov celebrates after defeating Al Iaquinta in a lightweight title bout at UFC 223 in New York.

FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Rebuilding Rangers fire coach Vigneault » NHL, Page 26

